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OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

COMPRISING PERIOD
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16 May 2011

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 16 May 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Modern Workplaces Consultation

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): Today the Government have launched a consultation on plans to modernise employment practices in the UK, making them more flexible, more family-friendly and fitter for the 21st century. The modern workplaces consultation proposes changes to employment law that will give employers and employees alike greater choice and flexibility, making it easier for parents to balance domestic and professional responsibilities and helping employers to recruit and retain skilled people.

The proposals cover four main areas:

> A new system of flexible parental leave. The consultation seeks views on replacing the current, rigid system of maternity and paternity leave with new arrangements that will allow mothers and fathers to share leave, encouraging shared parenting while enabling both parents to retain their attachment to the workplace. We also propose giving parents and employers much greater choice over exactly how and when leave is taken, enabling them to agree arrangements that suit them both;
>
> Extending the right to request flexible working to all employees. This will spread the benefits that flexible working can bring to all parts of the society and economy. It will give businesses access to a wider pool of skills and talents, improve recruitment and retention rates, and increase staff morale and productivity;
>
> Changes to the working time regulations as a result of Court of Justice of the European Union cases about the interaction of annual leave with other types of leave; and
>
> Requiring employers who lose an employment tribunal case on equal pay to carry out a pay audit.

Taken together, these measures will deliver on several important commitments in the coalition agreement. We will introduce the changes in a way that maximises flexibility for both employers and employees, providing the necessary framework for a competitive business environment and economic growth, without compromising fairness.

The consultation is the latest step in the Government's comprehensive review of employment law, on which the next steps were announced last week. We want to make it easier for businesses to employ people, but also for people to balance work and family commitments.

Copies of the consultation document will be placed in the House Libraries.

TREASURY

Consumer Insurance (Disclosure and Representations) Bill

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): I am pleased to announce that having considered the response to the Treasury's targeted consultation on the Consumer Insurance (Disclosure and Representations) Bill, the Government have decided to take forward the proposed reforms, when parliamentary time permits.

These reforms are based on the recommendations made by the Law Commission and the Scottish Law Commission in their 2009 report "Consumer Insurance Law: Pre-Contract Disclosure and Misrepresentation" (Law Com 319/Scot Law Com 219).

The Bill will replace the requirement for consumers to volunteer information about everything which a "prudent insurer" would consider relevant with the requirement that insurers ask particular questions to obtain specific information about the customer. The current law and regulations on information disclosure are complex, and this Bill will provide protection for consumers and reduce costs for industry.

The Bill is the result of lengthy consultation and has broad-based support from industry and consumer groups. The Bill will be subject to minor modifications to meet concerns raised during the consultation.

A summary of the responses to the consultation, and the Government's response, has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Equitable Life Scheme Design Document

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Treasury has today published the Equitable Life payment scheme design document.

The publication of the design document is a key step towards delivering the Government's pledge of May 2010 to

> "implement the parliamentary and health service ombudsman's recommendation to make fair and transparent payments to Equitable Life policy holders, through an independent payment scheme, for their relative loss as a consequence of regulatory failure".

The document sets out the detail of the scheme design, including:

> the scheme rules;
>
> the scheme administration and timetable;
>
> the methodology behind loss and payment calculations;
>
> the scheme's approach to making payments;
>
> the details of the queries and complaints procedure; and
>
> the plans for communicating with policyholders.

Fairness, transparency and simplicity have been the guiding principles behind the Government's approach to designing the scheme. The final design reflects these principles, as well as the actuarial analysis carried out by Towers Watson, the evidence and arguments received in response to the Government's call for representations following the publication of Sir John Chadwick's advice, and the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Equitable Life payments.

The scheme also reflects previous announcements that with-profits annuity policyholders will have their losses covered in full, and that scheme payments will be free of tax and will not affect eligibility for tax credits.

The Government have previously stated their ambition to make the first scheme payments by the middle of this year. They remain on track to do so, with plans to make the first payments before the end of June. Policyholders will not need to do anything to claim their payments—the scheme has policyholders' details from Equitable Life and the Prudential and will contact policyholders in the first instance.

Copies of the paper are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are available via the Treasury website.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Council of Europe: 121st Annual Ministerial Meeting: Istanbul, 10-11 May 2011

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): I represented the United Kingdom at the 121st annual ministerial meeting of the Council of Europe in Istanbul on 10 and 11 May 2011.

The Turkish and Ukrainian chairmanships issued a declaration covering a statement in their joint names. This statement reaffirmed the Council of Europe's role in protecting and promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law across the whole European continent and beyond; respect for and recognition of the political commitments and legally binding instruments to which all 47 member states are committed; and the urgent need to continue the current process of reform of the organisation.

I reaffirmed the United Kingdom's commitment to the Council of Europe and its aims. I paid tribute to the reform work done so far under Secretary-General Jagland but noted that much more needed to be done. I gave notice that the forthcoming United Kingdom chairmanship would continue to support Mr Jagland's reform programme while seeking to advance a programme of work under the theme of promoting and protecting human rights. A key priority of our chairmanship would be to drive forward the ongoing process of reform of the European Court of Human Rights, building on the agreements reached at the high-level conferences at Interlaken in February 2010 and at Izmir in April 2011.

At the end of the meeting, Turkey handed over the rotating six-month chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers to Ukraine. The United Kingdom will succeed Ukraine as Chair of the Committee of Ministers on 7 November 2011 and hand over the Chairmanship to Albania on 14 May 2012. Each country will have its own set of chairmanship priorities, but the Ukrainians, the Albanians and we have agreed in addition that our three successive chairmanships from May 2011 to November 2012 will include certain shared priorities. These cover reform of the organisation; reform of the European Court of Human Rights; and raising the efficiency of Council of Europe work on local and regional democracy.

While in Istanbul, I also held separate talks with a number of key Council of Europe and bilateral colleagues. These included the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Mr Thorbjom Jagland; the Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Thomas Hammarberg; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr Alexander Grushko; the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey, Mr Ahmet Davutoglu; the Minister for EU Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Mr Egemen Bagis; and the Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Sven Alkalaj.

I am placing a copy of the joint Turkish/Ukrainian statement, and of the UK statement, in the Library of the House. The latter document has already been published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Operation Gird

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am pleased to be able to announce that David Anderson QC has completed his report on the review of operation GIRD—the investigation of an alleged plot targeting the Papal visit of September last year. The report will be placed in the Library of the House and copies will also be available from the Vote Office.

I am grateful to David Anderson for his detailed report—his first as independent reviewer for terrorism legislation. I am also pleased that he finds that the police exercised the powers afforded them under the Terrorism Act 2000 lawfully and appropriately in seeking to prevent what they had reasonably suspected was a potential terrorist plot.

I welcome both his finding and his recommendations and intend to publish the Government's full response shortly.

TRANSPORT

Sale of Trust Ports

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): I am today launching a consultation on the criteria that the Government consider particularly relevant to the consideration of the appropriateness of sale of a major trust port[1] in England or Wales under the Ports Act 1991.

During the consultation period, which will run for six weeks until 27 June 2011, I am seeking the views of interested parties on the following criteria, which I propose to adopt in place of those set out in the written ministerial statement on the sale of trust ports of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 44WS.

In view of this consultation, I have asked my right hon. Friend the Minister of State to suspend her consideration of the application for a transfer of the port undertaking made by Dover Harbour Board under the Ports Act 1991 until I announce a decision on the proposed criteria.

The Proposed Criteria

The following criteria are those which the Government consider particularly relevant when considering an application under the Ports Act 1991 for the sale of a major trust port in England or Wales. This covers the consideration of any proposal for a transfer scheme submitted under section 9 or 10 of the 1991 Act, together with the exercise of the Secretary of State's functions in respect of the subsequent sale of the port to which the scheme relates. The Secretary of State also intends to have particular regard to the policy considerations set out below before making a transfer scheme himself under section 12 of the 1991 Act or subsequently approving the sale of a port to which his scheme relates.

Community participation

The Secretary of State will not approve an application for the sale of a trust port under the 1991 Act unless the sale is considered likely to deliver an ongoing and significant level of community participation in the port. Such participation could take a variety of forms, but must include the ability to influence the port's long-term development and may include the right to receive a share in the profits of the port, or the future increase in its value. It does not necessarily require a community role in the operation of the port.

Future Development of the Port

The Secretary of State will not approve an application unless the sale is considered likely to deliver an ownership model with the capability and access to capital to meet future investment needs.

Fair price

The Secretary of State will not approve an application unless the sale is considered likely to represent good value for money, having regard not only to Exchequer proceeds and market conditions, but also to other benefits including those to the community and the wider economy.

Fair competition

The Secretary of State will not approve an application that is likely to deliver an ownership model which results in unsatisfactory levels of competition in the relevant sector.

Transport networks

It is highly desirable for an application to be likely to deliver an ownership model which will cause the port to be operated so as to contribute to reliable and efficient transport networks.

Sale process

It is highly desirable that the sale should be conducted in such a way as to give all bona fide prospective purchasers a fair and equitable opportunity to participate.

Employee involvement

It is desirable for an application to be likely to deliver port employee participation in the ownership of the port, such as the right to receive equity shares or a share in its future success[2].

[1] For the purposes of the Act, a "major trust port" is a trust port with an annual turnover above a certain limit (currently £7.6 million). In England and Wales this currently includes Dover, Tyne, Milford Haven, Shoreham, Poole, Harwich Haven and the Port of London Authority (though the latter is excluded from provisions on privatisation contained in the Act).'

[2] This is without prejudice to the Ports Act 1991 section 5(3) requirement to have particular regard to the desirability of encouraging the disposal of the whole or a substantial part of the equity share capital of the successor company to managers or other persons employed by the port company etc.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 17 May 2011

TREASURY

Debt Management Office

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): The United Kingdom Debt Management Office (DMO) has today published its business plan for the year 2011-12. Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on the DMO's website, www.dmo.gov.uk.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building and the Environment

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): The growth review reaffirmed our commitment to zero carbon. We need to deliver carbon savings in order to meet the carbon budgets to which we are committed, and this means that the carbon footprint of new homes cannot be allowed to add to our overall carbon reduction targets. But this needs to be done in ways which are cost-effective and which protect the viability of house building. This statement sets out more details of our policy.

A fundamental principle of environmental regulation is that the "polluter pays". Previous approaches to zero-carbon homes policy have sought to hold house builders responsible for abating the carbon emissions from household appliances. But occupants' use of appliances, such as computers or televisions, is not influenced by the design or structure of their home and is therefore beyond the control of the house builder.

Asking house builders to put in place measures to reduce the emissions from appliances is unfair; we have decided therefore that the regulatory threshold for zero-carbon should be set to cover only those emissions which are within the scope of the building regulations, such as those from heating, ventilation, hot water, fixed lighting and building services.

There are already a number of existing policies which deal with emissions from appliances, including the EU emissions trading scheme (which caps emissions from electricity generation) and product energy efficiency measures. Moreover, if house builders, working with local planning authorities, still wish to go further in abating emissions from appliances then they are of course free to do so. In order to prevent excessive burdens on industry and protect the viability of development, the Government will work with local authorities and developers to ensure that the cumulative impact of regulation and other costs can be assessed, without adding complex and unwieldy bureaucracy to plans.

As part of meeting the overall requirement, zero-carbon homes must be energy efficient homes. We have already made clear our intention to introduce the fabric energy efficiency standard as based on the work of the Zero Carbon Hub. This will ensure that homes are warmer, and cheaper and easier to heat.

We also said we would look again at the right level for carbon reductions on the site of the home itself—"carbon compliance". The Zero Carbon Hub has led a large-scale review of evidence, working with industry, green groups and other experts. The Government have considered with care the findings from this work, and we intend to use the Hub's recommendations on where to set the maximum levels of on site carbon dioxide emissions as a starting point for consultation as part of future revisions to the building regulations.

We are also keen to build on industry's commitment to move to an approach based on real world carbon savings, rather than modelled reductions in emissions. This is a bold step forward, and will strengthen focus on innovation delivering new and better technologies and construction methods. We will work with industry to ensure both that this commitment becomes a reality, and that effective assurance is put in place to guarantee the zero-carbon standard and that real world carbon savings are achieved. The end result will be better homes and better protection for the environment.

The Hub's report "Carbon Compliance: Setting An Appropriate Limit For Zero Carbon New Homes—Findings and Recommendations, February 2011" includes a number of detailed recommendations on technical matters which we will consider as part of the further work on the building regulations. It can be found at: http://www.zerocarbonhub.org/definition.aspx?page=8.

Where house builders can deliver more ambitious carbon reductions on the site of the home than these minimum requirements, they will have the option to do so. Where it is not possible for house builders to do this cost effectively, we will ensure that a mechanism is available that allows house builders to meet their commitments at a cost no higher than the Government's long-term value of carbon. This ensures that the offsite requirement of the policy will be delivered cost effectively. This will give industry a benchmark against which to target innovation in carbon reduction technologies which will drive down costs over time.

We intend to work with industry on options for a mechanism to deliver these off-site measures, which will:

> be made available to all developers operating in England;
>
> be cost effective by ensuring offsite measures are no higher than the Governments' long-term value of carbon; and
>
> ensure that any funds raised will be dedicated to carbon abatement.

We will also review the measures which can be supported under these approaches and will consult further with industry, local government and other partners on these.

Taken together, these proposals deliver a realistic and effective approach to zero-carbon, on a par with the most ambitious international efforts to cut domestic carbon and build better, more sustainable homes, whilst at a greatly reduced cost to industry. However, we are keen to look at innovative ways for house builders to meet the additional costs associated with building zero-carbon homes. In particular, we are ready to explore with industry the potential of a green deal type financing approach for new homes, as a way of offsetting some of the up front costs of zero-carbon. We are aware that industry is already forming its thinking on how this can work, and we will continue to work with partners on how best to take this forward.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): My noble Friend Lord Henley will represent the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 17 May.

There is only one main agenda item: a discussion on the EU being party to a legally binding agreement on European forests.

There are currently eight items of any other business:

Swedish delegation request in relation to the report on the protection of animals during transport.

Codex alimentarius negotiations—progress and prospects report.

Conference on sustainable food consumption and production—report back from the presidency.

A report from the pigmeat advisory group.

A request from Poland on intervention price for cereals.

A request from Poland on sugar production quota.

G20 agriculture ministerial meeting in June—an update on the plans for this meeting.

A report from Lithuania on the international conference it hosted on animal welfare in the Baltic.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Monthly Progress Report April 2011

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is today publishing the sixth progress report on developments in Afghanistan.

The report focuses on key developments during the month of April.

April saw a series of security incidents, notably the attack on the UN compound in Mazar-e-Sharif and the escape of about 500 prisoners from the Sarposa jail in Kandahar.

Insurgent activity in April did not increase significantly compared with that seen in March. Within Helmand levels of such activity remained particularly low compared to previous periods. However seasonal trends associated with the completion of the poppy harvest, the large number of weapons caches still being found and the Taliban's declared intention to begin their spring offensive all suggest that activity will increase over the coming months.

The strength of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) has grown again in April and this, combined with falling attrition rates, will help to ensure that the ANSF are increasingly able to meet this threat. The troubled Kabul bank was taken over by the Government and split into two. The Special Court, established to investigate allegations of malpractice in the autumn parliamentary elections, completed its provincial recounts of the disputed parliamentary election results.

As the Prime Minister stated on 3 May, the death of al-Qaeda founder and leader Osama bin Laden, killed by US ground forces in Pakistan on 2 May, presents a new opportunity for Afghanistan and Pakistan to work together to achieve stability on both sides of the border. We should take this opportunity to send a clear message to the Taliban: now is the time to separate themselves from al-Qaeda and participate in a peaceful political process.

I am placing the report in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk) and the HMG UK and Afghanistan website (http://afghanistan.hmg.gov.uk/).

JUSTICE

Civil and Family Court Offices (Face to Face Services)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): Following the creation on 1 April of Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), I have agreed that the agency should explore the potential to modernise the way in which face to face services in the civil and family courts are provided through its public counters. This will allow a clearer focus of resources on those services which require face to face service and those which should be conducted through alternative means such as online or via the telephone.

In line with many other parts of Government business technology has revolutionised the way in which people conduct business with the courts. 70 % of money claims are now submitted online. HMCTS is now exploring potential to further improve the services it offers to courts users by providing for centralised administration centres. We now expect public services to modernise and provide services outside normal court opening hours. There must, of course, always be mechanisms to deal with urgent business and queries, HMCTS will explore the extent to which court users needs can be met with a system of appointments. For other work, court users will be directed towards using the appropriate online channel and call centres through the use of clear sign-posting in court, within information leaflets and on the internet.

The modernisation of current arrangements will not deny access to services nor create an additional burden for the public and is expected to improve overall efficiency and service standards. The proposals do not affect access to court hearings or the future of particular court buildings.

A document called the "Framework for the Provision of Front Office Services in Civil Courts" was published in September 2008 by what was then Her Majesty's Court Service. This document allowed some flexibility locally to adapt the delivery of face to face services in the civil courts. Local decisions on modernisation will be undertaken within that framework including local consultation where necessary. However should the need arise the framework will be revised and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): Following amendment to the Welfare Reform Bill tabled in the Committee of the House to establish a Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, and to clarify accountabilities for social reform under this coalition Government, this statement confirms:

> In reading in legislation *Minister of the Crown* as relates to *Social Mobility* refers to the Deputy Prime Minister or such other Minister as is appointed; and
>
> In reading in legislation *Minister of the Crown* as relates to *Child Poverty* refers to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

This reflects the coalition Government's social reforms to enable Social Mobility and Social Justice and our collective commitment to tackle the causes of immobility, inequality and poverty.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 18 May 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Local Enterprise Partnerships (Gloucestershire)

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): I, together with the Minister of State with responsibility for decentralisation, Department for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark), would like to inform the House that today we have written to the proposed Gloucestershire local enterprise partnership inviting it to put in place governance arrangements.

Local enterprise partnerships see a real power shift away from central Government and quangos and towards local communities and the local businesses who really understand the barriers to growth in their areas. This announcement brings the total number of partnerships so far invited to put their governance arrangements in place to 34. Taken together these represent 1.9 million or 94% of all businesses (active enterprises) in England, 22 million employees (employee jobs figures) or 94% of all employees in England and a population of 49 million or 94% of England's population. We will continue to work with other areas with a view to establishing further local enterprise partnerships across England.

Review of Intellectual Property and Growth

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): I together with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer would like to inform the House that Professor Ian Hargreaves has today presented the Government with findings of their independent review of intellectual property and growth.

We welcome this timely report and its identification of the IP system as a high-stakes issue and of innovation as the key element in economic growth from intellectual property.

Intellectual property has an enormous impact on individuals, businesses and industries and on the UK as a whole. It affects what we can and cannot do in business, in education and in our daily lives. The Government want to see a future where technological innovation, successful creative businesses and strong international brands go hand in hand.

The Prime Minister asked Professor Hargreaves to focus on the Government's top priority, growth. The Hargreaves recommendations have the potential to add between 0.3 to 0.6% to annual GDP and to cut the costs of doing business with IP by £750 million a year by 2020.

The review presents us with opportunities to support dynamic UK businesses that will deliver innovation, growth and jobs in the years to come, it offers us the chance of a future where there is a thriving market for Britain's creative talent, where the value of innovation and research outweighs the fear of piracy and counterfeiting and where we as customers are surprised and delighted by what digital technology offers us, not worried or confused.

This report is the culmination of six months of diligent inquiry by Professor Hargreaves and his panel of experts, and we thank him and his colleagues for their hard work.

The Government will aim to publish their substantive response before the parliamentary recess.

Copies of the "Hargreaves Review" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Review of Offender Learning

The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes): I am publishing today "Making Prisons Work: Skills for Rehabilitation", the report on the review of offender learning that I commissioned last summer. The document sets out our reform programme for offender learning. Our plans mark a departure from existing practice. The means of managing the system and measurement of outcomes will change dramatically and, consequently, so will the allocation of resources.

"Making Prisons Work: Skills for Rehabilitation", which has been developed jointly with the Ministry of Justice, takes careful account of the Government's plans for reform of adult learning and skills over the remainder of this Parliament, plans for reform in the criminal justice system and the 98 responses to our call for evidence. I thank all those who took the time to submit their views.

The plans also reinforce our public service reforms, shifting power away from the centre of Government into the hands of front-line staff and the partnerships that operate at a local level to deliver services.

The link between recidivism and the failure of ex-offenders to find work is clear. If those in prison acquire the skills needed to gain employment on release from prison there is a good chance that they will turn their lives around.

We are determined to make prisons places where people learn skills to build lives beyond crime. And the authenticity of what is taught and tested will be assured by its relationship with further learning and employment. Plainly, skills acquired through prison education must make ex-offenders more employable. In these terms prison must be made to work. Those closest to the effects of their decisions on the funding and management of learning provision should be responsible and accountable.

Some of the previous reforms to the skills system inside prisons have brought about improvements: certainly, we have increased prisoner participation in learning and skills. However, we are still failing to ensure prisoners continue their progress on release in terms of further learning or employment. To address this, we will place a much greater focus on developing the vocational skills demanded by employers in the areas to which prisoners are to be released, making offender learning an authentic part of the wider skills system. That sharpened focus will also enable us to support the drive towards prisons increasingly becoming places of meaningful work. As responsibility is devolved to those closest to the effects of their decisions, accountability will be assured through measurement of outcomes.

We will reflect the Government's focus on payment by results by introducing outcome incentive payments: providers' payments will be based, in part, on their success in helping get people into jobs. Our new emphasis on decentralised control and accountability means we will change the distribution of resources between prisons, supporting our determination to put in place the right skills offer for the offender while they are within the justice system. That will be framed by a significant change from the current system, introducing a focus on clusters of prisons between which prisoners tend to move and with wide implications for the way people work together.

To put these changes in place, we shall re-procure the offender learning contracts for delivery in adult prisons in England.

For offenders in the community, supervised by the probation service, we will place a new collaborative emphasis on the skills system in helping offenders gain the competences that will help them into work.

My Department will not be able to do all of this alone. The interaction between the Department for Work and Pensions, especially the Work programme and Jobcentre Plus's other employment support, and the skills system will be critical to our success in making sure that offenders use their newly acquired skills to secure work. Just as important is the need to engage sectors, social enterprises, charities and voluntary organisations whose dedication and expertise makes such a positive difference to so many lives.

"Making Prisons Work: Skills for Rehabilitation" is available on the BIS website at http://www.bis.gov.uk/ and copies will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

ECOFIN (17 May 2011)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 17 May 2011. The following items were discussed:

Economic governance

The Council took note of a report from the presidency on progress in negotiations with the European Parliament on a package of legislative proposals on economic governance. The presidency took on board the views of member states and agreed to take these forward during further negotiations with the European Parliament, which are ongoing, with a view to finalising legislation by the end of June.

Short selling regulation

The Council agreed a general approach on the draft regulation on short selling and credit default swaps. The intention of the regulation is to harmonise short selling requirements across the European Union and harmonise the powers that regulators may use in exceptional situations where there is a serious threat to financial stability or market confidence. I ensured that the Commission and the Council, thanks to a written statement, would work during the trialogues to find a solution taking into account the concerns expressed by member states in the ECOFIN Council regarding the powers of ESMA in article 24.

Savings taxation directive

The Council held an orientation debate on how to proceed with a proposal aimed at strengthening the provisions of the EU's directive on the taxation of savings interest. The Council agreed to continue working on reaching agreement.

Financial sector taxation

The Commission updated the Council with an interim report of financial sector tax and regulation. The Council also received a report from the Economic and Financial Committee, providing a factual overview of financial levies and taxes. Ministers took note of the reports. The Commission was asked to produce an impact assessment on various options of financial sector taxation. The high-level working party on tax will continue work on this subject and report back as appropriate.

Nomination of the President of the European Central Bank

The euro area member states, in Council, adopted a recommendation on the nomination of Mario Draghi (Italy) as President of the European Central Bank, to succeed Jean-Claude Trichet, whose term of office expires on 31 October 2011. The Council's recommendation will be submitted to the European Council, which will consult the European Parliament and the ECB, with a view to adopting a final decision at its meeting on 23-24 June 2011.

Financial back-stops

The Council approved a draft statement on guiding principles on financial backstops, for financial institutions which are shown to be vulnerable by this year's EU-wide stress tests. The presidency confirmed that bank stress test results will be published later this year.

Review of economic adjustment programme for Ireland

Finance Ministers adopted a decision to modify the conditions underpinning financial assistance to Ireland under the European Financial Stability Mechanism (EFSM), in order to prepare the disbursement of a second loan instalment. This follows a review by the IMF and the Commission, liaising with the European Central Bank, of progress made by Ireland in implementing its economic adjustment programme, which was approved last November.

Financial support to Portugal

The Council adopted a decision allowing for €26 billion of financial assistance to Portugal under the European Financial Stability Mechanism (EFSM), part of an overall €78 billion package of assistance. This will also comprise €26 billion of loans under the euro area-only European Financial Stability Facility and €26 billion from the IMF under its Extended Fund Facility. The EFSM loan will have a maximum average maturity of 7.5 years and a margin of 215 basis points on top of the EU's cost of funding. The aid will be provided on the basis of a three-year policy programme for the period up to mid-2014, which was negotiated with the Portuguese authorities by the Commission and the IMF, in liaison with the European Central Bank.

The economic and financial adjustment programme includes;

structural reforms to boost potential growth, create jobs, and improve competitiveness;

a fiscal consolidation strategy, supported by structural fiscal measures and better fiscal control over public-private-partnerships and state-owned enterprises, aimed at putting the gross public debt-to-GDP ratio on a firm downward path in the medium-term and reducing the deficit below 3% of GDP by 2013;

a financial sector strategy based on recapitalisation and deleveraging, with efforts to safeguard the financial sector against disorderly deleveraging through market-based mechanisms supported by backstop facilities.

Financing climate change

The Council adopted conclusions on climate finance. These conclusions outline the key issues and next steps in international climate finance. The Government welcome these conclusions.

Information on the Informal ECOFIN meeting

Ministers received a summary from the presidency on the issues that were discussed at the Informal ECOFIN which took place in Budapest on 7-8 April 2011.

Draft general budget for 2012

The Commission presented its proposed general budget for 2012 to the Council, which included a 4.9% increase in payments. I made it clear that this proposal was completely unacceptable. In line with the agreement made between the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Finland in December 2010, the Government's opinion is that growth in the EU's annual budget must be curbed, in order to reflect difficult economic conditions and tough measures taken by national Governments to cut spending.

Dialogue with EU candidate countries

Ministers held an informal meeting with their counterparts from the EU candidate countries: Turkey, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Iceland. The meeting focused on the candidate countries' economic policies.

AOB: Purple File

This item was added to the agenda at the request of Poland. They raised their concerns with the Purple File, which sets out procedures to follow when a member state seeks a flexible credit line from the IMF. The UK believes that the procedure needs to be identical for both euro and non-euro area countries, whereby the Economic and Financial Committee is informed of, and given the opportunity to discuss, any request for financial assistance by any EU member state.

European Stability Mechanism

In an inter-governmental meeting preceding ECOFIN, it was agreed that member states could forward a draft of the inter-governmental treaty (between euro area member states only) creating the new, permanent European stability mechanism to national parliaments. I will write to the chairs of the European Scrutiny Committees with the draft text.

CABINET OFFICE

Identity Assurance

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): The Government agreed on 14 March 2011 to the development of a consistent, customer-centric approach to digital identity assurance across all public services. This will allow service users to log on safely to digital public services in a way that ensures personal privacy, reduces fraud and facilitates the move to online public services.

Today I am setting out the context and vision for this delivery programme and will explain how my Department will draw on expertise from organisations in the public and private sector to agree the design for this new approach. NO2ID and other privacy advocates are being kept closely informed of developments and given the opportunity to contribute and comment. This is a cross-departmental initiative and the approach will be introduced in the near term through major Government initiatives such as DWP's universal credits, NHS HealthSpace, HMRC's one click programmes and the Skills Funding Agency.

Online services have the potential to make life more convenient for service users as well as delivering cost savings. However, currently customers have to enter multiple log-in details and passwords to access different public services, sometimes on the same website. This involves significant duplication, is expensive to operate and is highly inconvenient for users. It acts as a deterrent to people switching to digital channels, hampers the vision of digital being the primary channel for accessing Government information and transactions, and provides an opportunity for fraudsters.

Our intention is to create a market of accredited identity assurance services delivered by a range of private sector and mutualised suppliers. A key improvement will be that people will be able to use the service of their choice to prove identity when accessing any public service. Identity assurance services will focus on the key imperative to ensure privacy. My Department is leading the project to develop the design and the creation of the market within the private sector. By October 2011 we expect to have the first prototype of the identity assurance model to test with transactional Departments and public sector identity assurance services, with a date for implementation from August 2012.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council Agenda (19 May 2011)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Andrew Stunell): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 19 May in Brussels. Andy Lebrecht, UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU will represent the United Kingdom.

This will be a single-issue Council on the subject of Roma integration. On 5 April, the European Commission published a communication on an EU framework for national Roma integration strategies up to 2020. Based on this, the presidency has invited the Council to hold an exchange of views and adopt a set of Council conclusions and an opinion from the Social Protection Committee.

The UK will agree that Roma in many parts of Europe experience extreme poverty, discrimination and exclusion and that the primary responsibility for tackling this lies with the member states. We will therefore welcome the fact that the conclusions represent a clear political commitment by EU member states to take concrete steps to improve the situation of their Roma nationals, while recognising that the situation in each member state is different.

We will outline the fact that in the UK we have a strong and well-established legal framework to combat discrimination and hate crime and that this protects all individuals, including Roma, Gypsies and Travellers, from racial and other forms of discrimination and racially motivated crime. We will also acknowledge that the UK's Gypsies and Travellers none the less experience inequalities and we will summarise the action being undertaken in the different parts of the UK to deal with this.

We also acknowledge the importance of co-ordination between member states to tackle organised crime, particularly trafficking, which can affect Roma, especially Roma children.

We will note the opportunity that EU funds provide to member states to add value to their policies to improve the situation of Roma and other disadvantaged people.

And finally, we will underline the importance of sharing good practice between member states and of ensuring that any EU activity complements, rather than duplicates, that of other international organisations.

DEFENCE

UK/Iraq Bilateral Agreement

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): I wish to inform the House that the UK/Iraq training and maritime support agreement that has provided naval training and maritime support to Iraq will conclude on 22 May 2011.

British Forces have been involved in this important task since 2003 and, under the agreement signed in 2009, Royal Navy trainers have developed the capacity of the Iraqi maritime security forces to protect their territorial waters and offshore oil platforms, which are vital to Iraq's economic revival.

Having successfully completed their mission UK personnel deployed to Iraq under this agreement will now leave the country.

This will mark the formal conclusion of Operation Telic but it is not the end of our bilateral defence relationship with Iraq. We will: continue to train members of the Iraqi security forces at UK training establishments; continue to contribute to the NATO training mission in Iraq; and continue to engage with the Government of Iraq at the highest levels on defence and security issues. Finally, we will maintain defence capabilities in the wider Gulf region as part of our enduring contribution to Gulf security.

I pay tribute to all UK service personnel who have served in Iraq over the last eight years and to the sacrifices made by so many for the benefit of the people of Iraq and our national security.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Fukushima (Interim Report)

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): Today I have laid before the House the chief nuclear inspector's interim report on the events at Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear site in March.

Dr Mike Weightman, supported by his colleagues in the Office for Nuclear Regulation, produced this independent report which examines the immediate lessons learned for the UK nuclear industry. The final report is due in September.

Safety is and will continue to be our number one priority. We take the incident at Fukushima very seriously. Although the plant is stabilising, the situation remains critical. However, progress in securing the site is being made; and the operator, Tepco, has outlined a roadmap to recover the plant during the next year.

Dr Weightman believes that there is sufficient information available for his interim report to reach a number of conclusions and recommendations, which have concentrated on potential lessons for the nuclear power reactor sector. However some of his recommendations are relevant to all sectors. His final report will cover all of the nuclear industry in more detail.

Dr Weightman has drawn a number of conclusions. He states that the direct causes of the nuclear accident—a magnitude nine earthquake and associated 14-metre high tsunami—are far beyond the most extreme events the UK could expect to experience. In this respect he concludes there is no reason for curtailing the operation of nuclear power plants or other nuclear facilities in the UK. Nevertheless Dr Weightman notes severe events can occur from other causes, and that learning from such events is fundamental to the robustness of our nuclear safety arrangements. I can therefore confirm that once further work on the recommendations is completed any proposed improvements to safety arrangements will be considered and implemented in line with our normal nuclear safety regulatory approach.

The interim report also identifies various matters that should be reviewed to improve the safety of the UK nuclear industry. I consider it an absolute priority that the regulators, industry and Government act responsibly to learn from the 26 recommendations in the report; and to respond to them within one month of today's publication.

Dr Weightman's recommendations require the review of a wide range of nuclear safety matters, including international and national emergency response arrangements, public contingency planning, communications and the review of flooding studies, site and plant layouts, electricity and cooling supplies, multi-reactor site considerations, spent fuel strategies and dealing with prolonged accidents. I very much welcome this approach, and I believe it is vitally important that the regulators and industry continue to adhere to the principle of continuous improvement for all existing and future nuclear sites and facilities. The interim report does not identify any implications for the strategic siting assessment of new reactors and I do not believe the final report will either.

In taking this important work forward Dr Weightman deserves our thanks. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has recently noted that the UK has a mature, transparent and independent regulatory system, an advanced review process, and highly trained and experienced nuclear inspectors. The reputation of the UK's regulatory regime is further endorsed by the appointment of Dr Weightman to head up the IAEA's review of events in Japan. I would like to congratulate him on his appointment, which reinforces our belief that he is the right person to consider the lessons learned for the UK's own nuclear industry.

In the light of the events at Fukushima, we have agreed with our European colleagues that the safety of existing nuclear sites and equipment in the EU should be subject to "stress testing". We believe these stress tests will supplement the UK's already robust regulatory regime. The scope of the stress test is currently being developed by the European nuclear safety regulators group and the European Commission.

My officials will review carefully the interim report, but from my discussions with Dr Weightman I see no reason why we should not proceed with our current policy: namely that nuclear should be part of the future energy mix in the future as it is today, providing that there is no public subsidy.

This policy has recently been supported by the Committee on Climate Change in its "Renewable Energy Review" which states that

> "nuclear should play a key role in taking Britain towards a clean prosperous future as it is a safe power and the lowest-cost, large-scale, low-carbon electricity source".

Subject to careful consideration of the detail of Dr Weightman's interim report, I intend to bring forward for ratification as soon as possible the energy national policy statements, which are principally about the planning guidance on energy infrastructure for the IPC but will also include a list of potential sites for nuclear power stations.

Any further implications from the final report can be taken on board subsequently. Regulators and industry will continue to work together to take forward the generic design assessment process. They will need to factor into this work the recommendations outlined in the interim report. We encourage them to work together in setting out their timeline for conclusion of the process.

I strongly welcome Dr Weightman's interim report. I encourage the regulators to work closely with industry and other partners to take the recommendations forward, and I look forward to receiving the final report in the autumn.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Annual Report of the Veterinary Products Committee and its Sub-Committees 2010

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I have received the annual report of the Veterinary Products Committee and its sub-committees 2010, which has been published today.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I am pleased to acknowledge the valuable work done by the distinguished members of the Veterinary Products Committee and its sub-committees and thank them for the time and effort dedicated in the public interest to this important work.

Single Payment Scheme

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): In my statement of 31 March, *Official Report*, columns 35-36WS, I outlined the measures the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) was taking to speed the flow of the remaining payments to farmers under the 2010 single payment scheme (SPS).

The introduction of those measures, including making manually validated payments in some circumstances, ensured that RPA exceeded its revised payment profile in April. Some claimants who the agency had estimated could be paid in that month were not, often because they were linked to others through a complex web of entitlements transfers. Apart from a few exceptional cases, RPA has either telephoned or written to all those affected to explain the position and will look to prioritise their payments where possible over the coming month. The agency kept above profile overall by managing to resolve issues preventing payments on some claims that had been estimated to be paid in May or June.

As of Friday 13 May, the total value of payments made to some 101,176 farmers had reached £1.63 billion (94.54%). The number of eligible claimants left to pay at that point was estimated to be 3,177. The agency remains on course, therefore, to meet the EU benchmark to avoid late payment penalties; that is, making 95.238% of the total value of payments, by the end of this month. The RPA oversight board, which I chair, will continue to monitor progress to ensure that, wherever it is legally possible to do so, these remaining payments reach farmers by the end of the regulatory payment window on 30 June.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 19 May 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (19-20 May 2011)

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics (Hugh Robertson): The Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council will be held on 19 and 20 May in Brussels. Culture and audiovisual issues will be taken on 18 May. Sport issues will be taken on 20 May. The Deputy UK Permanent Representative, Andy Lebrecht, will be representing the UK for the culture, audiovisual and sport sections of the Council.

The first item on the agenda will be the agreement on the proposal for a European Heritage Label (EHL). The EHL is a proposal that builds on an informal process launched independently by a group of member states in 2007. The designation is intended to focus on the promotion of sites that "symbolise and strengthen European history and heritage", rather than conservation. Although the UK has not opposed the creation of the EHL in principle, the Government have reservations about the need for a new scheme that presents the potential for duplication of the UNESCO world heritage list. Throughout negotiations the UK actively supported the voluntary nature of the scheme; opposed any additional cost burdens; and supported changes to make the scheme as light touch as possible. As there is a risk that funding for the EHL in 2013 will be taken from the margins of the EU budget, the UK has maintained a reserve on financial provisions and intends to abstain in the final vote. It is expected that a formal agreement on the proposal will be reached at the Council meeting.

The presidency will seek the adoption of a decision on the selection of a city to host the European capital of culture event for 2015. Belgium and the Czech Republic are the EU member states eligible to nominate cities for 2015. Belgium's nomination of the city of Mons for the title was agreed at the Council meeting last November. The Czech Republic has now nominated the city of Plzen for the title and the Council will be asked to adopt this decision. The UK will support this proposal.

The Council will be invited to adopt conclusions on the contribution of culture to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy. These conclusions highlight the contribution of culture to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. They invite member states to consider the cross-cutting nature of culture when formulating relevant policies. The UK will support the adoption of these conclusions.

The Council is expected to adopt Council conclusions on mobility information services for artists and for culture professionals. These suggest possible measures to establish mobility information services and foster the flow of information on mobility issues such as taxation, social security, intellectual property rights, visas, work permits, insurance and customs. The conclusions respond to the need identified in several major EU culture policy documents such as the current Culture Programme, the European Agenda For Culture and the Council Work Plans for Culture covering the periods 2008-2010 and 2011-14. The UK will support the adoption of these conclusions.

Under the sport section of the meeting, the Council will be invited to adopt a resolution on a European work plan for sport. The resolution highlights three priority areas for action at EU level: integrity of sport, in particular the fight against doping, match-fixing and the promotion of good governance; social values of sport, in particular health, social inclusion, education and volunteering; and economic aspects of sport, in particular sustainable financing of grassroots sports and evidence-based policy-making. The UK is supportive of the aims of the work plan and intends to support its adoption.

There will then be a discussion of a presidency paper on sport related aspects of online betting. The paper asks questions on the impact recent growth in online betting has had on sport sectors in each member state and what measures have been taken in this respect. The paper also asks what kind of policy response is required at EU level. The deputy permanent representative will intervene to highlight how the UK as an engaged and responsible regulator, is aware of the issues from both the sporting and betting sides and the importance of maintaining an appropriate balance between the industries.

Under any other business there will be a presentation from the Commission on the report from the Comité des Sages on bringing Europe's cultural heritage online. There will be an information point from the presidency on the Council Work Plan for Culture 2011-2014. The presidency will also raise an information point on EU structured dialogue with the sport movement.

The Polish delegation will inform the Council on the priorities for their forthcoming presidency. The Slovenian and French delegations will raise an information point on a proposed manifesto for culture in Europe. I do not foresee a need to intervene on either of these.

DEFENCE

Report of the Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill (Government Response)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): The Ministry of Defence welcomes the Select Committee's report on the Armed Forces Bill (HC 779). In this formal response, I will deal with each of the Committee's conclusions and recommendations in turn.

I shall begin with the Committee's recommendation that Select Committee scrutiny should continue to be the convention for Armed Forces Bills. I believe that the appointment of a Select Committee which was able to take evidence and conduct visits allowed Committee members an opportunity to visit armed forces units, to hear from members of the armed forces and their families, and to develop a better understanding of service life. These experiences helped Committee members in their role of scrutinising the legislation. I therefore welcome the Committee's recommendation.

The Select Committee spent a significant amount of its time examining the provisions in the Bill that relate to the armed forces covenant report. There were differences of view on some issues, but Committee members were united in their support for service personnel, veterans and their families. I therefore strongly welcome the Committee's conclusion that military service is unique and that individuals who serve in the armed forces should be recognised for the contribution they make.

The Government have already made significant progress in rebuilding the armed forces covenant. The commitment to produce a report on the covenant will make the Secretary of State accountable to Parliament for this work. The Government's announcement that they will table amendments to the Bill, so that the key principles of the covenant are written into law, will further strengthen that element of the legislation. I agree with the Committee's recommendation that, in creating a tri-service document, we should use the term "armed forces covenant" to signify its inclusivity.

Committee members will be aware that we have used that title in the new version of the covenant which we published on 16 May 2011.

I welcome the Committee's comments about the external reference group. The Government value the important contribution that the group has made and continues to make in driving forward our work on supporting the armed forces community. The group has proved its worth and at no time has its continued existence, or its vital role, been in doubt. Our aim is to strengthen the group rather than to sideline it. The Government agree that its terms of reference should be updated. Ultimately it is for the group to decide how its work will be taken forward, and we have asked its external members for their views on its future role, terms of reference and membership. This includes how they wish to engage with the process of preparing the Defence Secretary's annual report to Parliament on the armed forces covenant.

I welcome the Committee's support for the provisions in the Bill in relation to the independence and powers of service police; to drug and alcohol testing; and those which aim to provide greater independence of service complaints panels, where circumstances demand.

Following the Committee's recommendation that the Ministry of Defence should review service complaints procedures and the powers of the Service Complaints Commissioner, the commissioner published her annual report on 31 March. In the response, I welcomed the commissioner's acknowledgement of the real progress that the Ministry of Defence and the armed forces have made in relation to the handling of complaints. While I am pleased with this progress, I recognise the importance of the commissioner's recommendations as to ways to improve the system further. A review of the service complaints system will be undertaken and will consider in full the recommendations made by the commissioner in her annual report, including those specifically related to the powers of her role.

The Committee concluded that the matter of a veterans' ID card could usefully be explored further. In response, I should begin by saying that a veterans' ID card which guarantees or provides a very high level of assurance of the identity of the bearer would be an expensive project and would require significant administration. There is no defence need for such a card and it would not provide good value for money. Nevertheless, we agree that there is value in developing a card which confirms the status of individuals as former servicemen or women and can be used in order to facilitate easier access to discounts and other privileges, including those arising from the armed forces community covenant initiative. This option would require a lower level of verification than an actual identification card. The Government announced their intention to introduce such a card on 16 May.

I welcome the Committee's support for the existing policy in relation to the recruitment of under-18s. However, following a review of discharge policy I am pleased to announce that, for those under the age of 18, the ability to be discharged will in future be a right up to the age of 18, subject to an appropriate period of consideration or cooling off. My officials are currently finalising the policy details and these will be brought forward shortly in secondary legislation.

The Committee's final recommendation was in relation to trials of service personnel. The Committee recommended that the Ministry of Defence should consider whether there might be a benefit in transferring the handling of some cases to the service courts and whether there might also be scope for the creation of a power in civilian courts to remit cases to the service courts for sentence. Proposals for changes in both of these areas were discussed at a meeting of the service justice board in January 2011, when it was agreed that staff in the central legal services directorate should lead further work to assess whether greater flexibility could be achieved in the transfer of cases between jurisdictions and the possibility of transferring cases to the court martial for sentencing. That work is in hand at present.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Ofgem Review: Summary of Conclusions

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): Today I am publishing the conclusions of the Ofgem review.

The coalition programme for Government committed to a review of the role of Ofgem. The annual energy statement last July announced the terms of the review, which focused on Ofgem's role in regulating the gas and electricity markets, and that conclusions would be published in spring 2011.

The review has concluded that the current system should be strengthened to bring greater clarity and coherence to the distinct roles of Government and the regulator—

> Ofgem will continue to regulate independently of Government;
>
> Government will set out a strategic policy framework for the energy sector and will define those strategic goals to which Ofgem should contribute. The Government will seek legislative provision to require Ofgem to take its independent regulatory decisions within the context of these goals, which will be set out in a new statutory "Strategy and Policy Statement". Approval from Parliament will be sought before the statement takes effect.

> Ofgem will set out annually how it plans to deliver its contribution to the goals and how it will monitor progress, in order to increase transparency and accountability.

A summary of the conclusions is available on the DECC website and a full report will be published with the electricity market reform White Paper, before the summer recess.

I am also publishing today the conclusions of DECC's delivery review, which will help DECC respond to future delivery challenges.

Governance of existing programmes has been reviewed and, where appropriate, changes introduced to improve it. For new programmes, unless there is a clear case for placing delivery with a specific third party, delivery will be led by DECC itself to ensure accountability to Ministers, but with aspects of delivery contracted out, where possible and appropriate, to provide maximum value-for-money.

For the Ofgem review conclusions see:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/markets/regulation/regulation.aspx

Further information on the delivery review can be found at: www.decc.gov.uk.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Wild Animals in Circuses

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): In my statement to the House of 13 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 48WS, on the question of the protection of the welfare of performing wild animals in circuses, I indicated that the Austrian Government had recently been taken to court for introducing a ban on wild animals in circuses, as a European Circus Association press release stated. However, I now understand that the initiation of court proceedings has been delayed, although a case is in preparation. My understanding is that such proceedings are likely to be issued in the near future. I would like to avoid any misunderstanding.

This does not impact on the policy I announced to the House about this matter. Having taken advice on the legal implications and on the proportionality of all the possible courses of action, I remain convinced that a tough licensing regime which introduces additional safeguards to protect wild animals in circuses is the most effective and legally sound route for the estimated 39 animals concerned.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Pre-Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council (23-24 May 2011)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will attend the Foreign Affairs Council (Foreign Ministers) on 23 May. My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, the Minister with responsibility for international security strategy, the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr Howarth) will attend the Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) on 23 May. I will attend the General Affairs Council on 23 May. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development will attend the Foreign Affairs Council (Development) on 24 May.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS)

Libya

Ministers are expected to discuss developments in Libya since the contact group meeting in Rome of 5 May, where participants agreed to increase pressure on Gaddafi's regime. Ministers are likely to agree conclusions referring to the recent announcements by the International Criminal Court (ICC)—see more below. And they may assess the humanitarian situation and discuss the possibility of setting up an EU office in Benghazi.

On 12 May, Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, chair of the Libyan national transitional council (NTC), visited the UK and met the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for International Development. The Foreign Secretary updated Parliament in a written ministerial statement on 13 May.

On 16 May, the Foreign Secretary welcomed the announcement by the ICC that Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo will apply for arrest warrants for Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, Saif al-Islam al Gaddafi and Abdullah Senussi.

The Foreign Secretary said:

> "I welcome this announcement. The human rights situation in Western Libya and the behaviour of the Qadhafi regime remains of grave concern and the UK was at the forefront of efforts in the UN to adopt resolution 1970 which referred the situation in Libya to the ICC. The request for these warrants is a reminder to all in Qadhafi's regime that crimes will not go unpunished and the reach of international justice will be long."
>
> "Those responsible for attacks on civilians must he held to account. The international community must fully support the ICC in thoroughly investigating all allegations. I call on all UN Member States, whether parties to the Rome Statute or not, to offer their full co-operation."

Syria

We expect the Council to agree conclusions on Syria condemning the violence and ongoing repression of peaceful protesters and for release of detainees. It could also call for the UN/ICRC to be granted immediate humanitarian access to several towns in Syria; and to urge the Syrian Government to choose the path of reform and warn the Syrian leadership that the EU will work to agree sanctions unless the violence stops and detainees are released.

On 13 May, the FCO's political director, Sir Geoffrey Adams, called in the Syrian ambassador Dr Sami Khiyami to the Foreign Office to express the UK's strong concerns about the ongoing situation in Syria.

Sir Geoffrey emphasised the UK's profound concern about the Syrian Government's violent repression of their own citizens, and called on the Syrian authorities to respect universal human rights, including freedom of expression. Sir Geoffrey also expressed concern about the continued denial of access of international media into Syria.

The political director called on the Syrian Government to allow UN and other humanitarian organisations immediate and unhindered access to besieged Syrian cities, particularly the city of Deraa.

Sir Geoffrey said that unless the Syrian Government stopped the killing of protesters and released political prisoners, the UK along with its EU partners would take further measures to hold the regime to account. These measures would include further sanctions targeted at the highest levels of the regime, including travel bans and asset freezing.

Yemen

This will be a further opportunity for the EU to demonstrate support for the Gulf Co-operation Council's (GCC's) initiative to resolve the current political deadlock to agree the transitional process. Further deterioration in Yemen's economic and humanitarian situation, and a rise in violence between protesters and security forces, underpins the urgent need for a political settlement. The Government have remained in close contact with EU, US and Gulf counterparts on finding a peaceful solution. We expect there to be Council conclusions.

My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) discussed recent events when he met UN special envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar in London on 12 May.

Speaking after the meeting my hon. Friend said:

> "Mr Benomar's insights into recent developments in Yemen reinforced my deep concern about what is happening. I condemn the actions taken by the security forces that have reportedly caused the death of several protestors and injured many more in Taiz, Sana'a, and cities across Yemen. Mr Benomar and I agreed that all parties should exercise the utmost restraint and take all steps necessary to defuse this situation.
>
> I urge the Yemeni authorities to demonstrate their commitment to an orderly and peaceful transition by respecting the right of peaceful protest and free speech. The rising violence we have witnessed risks undermining the efforts to secure the agreement brokered by the Gulf Co-operation Council. All parties need to come together urgently to confirm their commitment to this."

Iraq

Baroness Ashton may raise the incident at Camp Ashraf in Iraq on 8 April, in which 34 people died and some 70 were injured. The UK has supported calls for an independent inquiry.

On 8 April, my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), made the following statement:

> "The UK Government has been disturbed to read reports that a number of civilian residents have been killed and many more wounded at Camp Ashraf yesterday. I absolutely deplore any loss of life and my sincere condolences go out to the families of those involved.
>
> The Iraqi Government has provided us with assurances on several occasions that it will treat individual residents of camp Ashraf in a humane manner, act in accordance with Iraqi law, the Iraqi Constitution and its international obligations. We urge the Iraqi Government to uphold this commitment.
>
> Our Ambassador in Baghdad has been expressing our concerns to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the highest levels. We call on the Iraqi Government to cease violent operations in Camp Ashraf immediately and to ensure that the residents have full access to medical care. It is important that the Government of Iraq takes immediate steps to calm the situation and ensure that the human rights of the residents are respected. We are aware of a request by UNAMI to send a humanitarian monitoring mission to camp Ashraf as soon as possible. We fully support this request and therefore urge the Iraqi Government to quickly grant permission. We call on all sides to engage in a constructive dialogue that can lead to a lasting resolution to the situation."

Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)

Ministers are likely to discuss recent developments in the MEPP, including the implications of the Fatah-Hamas reconciliation. There may also be conclusions. We will make clear our hope that the announcement of reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas will lead to the formation of a Government who reject violence and pursue a negotiated peace, and that we will judge a future Palestinian Government by their actions and their readiness to work for peace.

On 15 May, the Foreign Secretary called on all parties to exercise restraint after violence broke out on Israel's borders as Palestinians marked Nakba day.

The Foreign Secretary said:

> "I am deeply concerned by the violence on Israel's borders today and saddened by the loss of life. I call on all parties to exercise restraint and ensure that civilian life is protected. These developments make clearer than ever that a lasting and comprehensive resolution to the conflicts in the region is urgently needed and will only be achieved through negotiation".

Southern Caucasus

We expect Ministers to discuss recent developments in the south Caucasus, and in particular to focus on the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

We expect Ministers to discuss the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) following Baroness Ashton's visit there on 13 May. The Government are deeply concerned that a BiH state-level Government has not been formed over seven months after elections; that divisive nationalist rhetoric continues; and that there have been recent serious challenges to state-level institutions and to the Dayton agreement. We will urge the Council to remain fully engaged on this issue and to react as necessary to developments on the ground.

Sudan

Ministers are expected to be briefed on the key elements of the EU's comprehensive approach to Sudan, with a view to a possible substantive discussion and adoption of conclusions at the FAC in June. Given the lack of progress on key issues under the comprehensive peace agreement, and the ongoing violence in Darfur, the meeting on 23 May will be an important opportunity for Ministers to stress the importance of a continued focus on Sudan, both in the run-up to and following the secession of South Sudan on 9 July.

External Action Service (EAS)

This should be an opportunity to set out our view on the priorities for EAS action, and to underline that the EAS should limit its representation of the member states to agreed areas. It will also be an opportunity to voice our opposition to the proposed budget increase for the EAS of 5.8% (€27 million) in 2012 and press the EAS to produce a convincing plan for the savings that will lead to budget neutrality.

Iran

There should be an agreement, without discussion, to the designation of over 100 entities in order to strengthen EU sanctions and increase the pressure on Iran's nuclear programme. In addition, Baroness Ashton may brief Ministers on the reply she recently received from the Iranian chief nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili. A spokesperson for Baroness Ashton commented to the press that the reply "does not seem to justify" organising another meeting between the E3+3 (UK, France, Germany, US, Russia and China) and Iran at this time.

EU Human Rights

Baroness Ashton will brief Ministers on her preliminary views on an EU overall strategy for human rights, followed by an exchange of views. The final strategy is due to be announced in June 2011.

Foreign Affairs Council (Defence)

The current agenda includes three main items: an informal discussion of military operations; a formal discussion of military capabilities; and the European Defence Agency (EDA) Steering Board.

Informal working session on operations

Ministers will be joined by the NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen for an informal discussion of military operations. The session is likely to focus on a potential extension to EU Training Mission Somalia. We do not expect the discussion to result in a decision; this is likely to be deferred to the June FAC. The session will also update progress on Operation Atalanta, Althea, and Eufor Libya.

Formal working session on military capabilities

There will be conclusions on pooling and sharing military capabilities and a broader dialogue on the Weimar initiative. Ministers are likely to discuss the High Representative's interim report (yet to be released) on the progress of the Weimar initiative and implementation of provisions in the Lisbon treaty. We will support the principle of increased pooling and sharing among European and NATO partners but resist any calls for the creation of additional institutions or processes.

EDA Steering Board

The agenda for this meeting is currently being finalised. It will build from the session on capabilities, taking stock on key capability development projects and initiatives, including pooling and sharing and the European Air Transport Fleet (EATF) programme. We are broadly supportive of the EDA's work in these areas.

General Affairs Council

Croatia

The Commissioner for Enlargement, Stefan Fule, will brief Ministers on Croatia's progress on its accession negotiations and the approaching closure of negotiations. He is likely to focus on progress within Chapter 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights). This chapter was created to strengthen the accession process after the last EU enlargement. The Government will continue to monitor Croatia's progress and ensure that this chapter is closed on the basis of a thorough technical assessment against the benchmarks, including establishing the necessary track records to ensure that reforms are sustainable. Beyond this, the Government will ensure that closure of negotiations as a whole takes place on the basis of rigorous conditionality.

Charter of Fundamental Rights

The presidency is seeking agreement to conclusions in response to the Commission's annual report on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Council conclusions set out the actions taken by the Council to ensure compliance with the charter, including the work of the fundamental rights working group to produce guidelines to help other formations of the Council identify and resolve fundamental rights issues. The Council conclusions may also describe the actions the Council has taken or announced under each of the six chapters of the charter.

Roma

Ministers will have an initial discussion of proposed European Council conclusions on the Commission's communication of 5 April entitled "An EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020". The Commission's communication can be found at the following link:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52011DC0173:EN:NOT.

The conclusions are likely to call on member states to develop national strategies or policy approaches to improve the social and economic integration of Roma communities, specifically through access to education, employment, health care and housing. The UK already has a strong record on the integration of Roma, Gypsy and Traveller communities. We will argue for the eventual conclusions not to be overly prescriptive to allow us the flexibility to continue with these approaches. There will be a more substantive discussion at the 19 May Employment and Social Affairs Council, which will feed into the 24 June European Council, where we expect the adoption of formal conclusions.

Foreign Affairs Council (Development)

Sudan

We expect the Development Commissioner, Andris Piebalgs, to debrief Development Ministers on his visit to Khartoum and Juba and to update them on the EU's plans for joint programming in South Sudan. Additionally, a possible Council decision is expected on the use of €200 million of de-committed funds from European Development Fund (EDF) to support development efforts in South Sudan.

Accountability Report on EU Development Policy

Ministers will discuss the findings of the Commission's accountability report on EU development policy. The report assesses progress against the EU's financing for development commitments and covers official development assistance (ODA), innovative finance, domestic resource mobilisation, aid for trade, climate finance, co-operation with the private sector, and aid effectiveness. The discussion is likely to focus on how to achieve the EU aid commitment to spend 0.7% of gross national income on aid by 2015. Ministers will adopt a report on EU ODA performance in 2010, to be considered by the June European Council. This report is a welcome means of holding other member states to account. We will continue to press others to fulfil their aid commitments.

Water

The Hungarian presidency is expected to deliver proposals on the role of water in EU development policy, for which Council conclusions are due to go through Environmental Council in June. The Government agree that water for growth and development as well as water supply and sanitation for human development need greater policy priority within the EU. We will therefore support proposals to update and renew the EU policy on water in EU development co-operation. This should support the efforts to redefine and revitalise the EU water initiative, set up in 2002 as part of the

World Summit on Sustainable Development to mobilise and co-ordinate EU resources to achieve the water-related millennium development goals. We believe that water should be central in preparations for Rio+20 and that the EU should play a leading role in the preparatory processes and conferences. We will continue to insist on these points in negotiations with EU partners.

Cote d'Ivoire

This is an opportunity to emphasise the need for firm international support for stabilisation, reconciliation, and justice under President Ouattara's new Government. Close co-ordination of international community efforts, appropriately resourced and structured UN involvement; active and effective UN agencies; and a UN and EU sanctions regime that supports the goals of political, economic and social progress will be important.

I will deposit copies of this note in the Libraries of both Houses. And I will update Parliament on Foreign and General Affairs Councils after the meetings.

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (Luxembourg 6-7 June 2011)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will meet on 6 and 7 June.

The presidency is likely to ask Ministers to debate the sustainability of care systems and health issues related to migration.

The presidency is also expected to propose the adoption of Council conclusions on the following:

the European pact for mental health and well-being: results and future action;

successes and challenges of European childhood immunisation and the way forward;

towards modem, responsive and sustainable health systems; and

innovation in the medical device sector.

The UK supports the adoption of these Council conclusions.

Under any other business, information will be provided from the presidency on antimicrobial resistance and on a number of conferences that took place under their presidency. The Polish delegation will give information on the priorities for their forthcoming presidency, which will run from July 2011 until the end of the year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Section 19 of the United Kingdom Borders Act 2007

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): Section 19 of the UK Borders Act 2007 will come into force on 23 May 2011. Section 19 restricts the evidence an appellant can rely on at such an appeal to that which is submitted to and considered by the UK Border Agency in support of an application.

Reforming the immigration system and reducing the level of immigration to a sustainable number is one of the big tasks of this Government. Our goal is an improved system that commands the confidence of the public and serves our economic interests. We have made it clear that we will take a robust approach, that we will tighten up our system, stop abuse and welcome only the most economically beneficial migrants. This Government have already delivered a new annual limit on non-EU economic migrants and have announced reforms to the student visa system to be implemented over the course of the next year. These measures are aimed at attracting the brightest and the best, while reducing the level of net migration and tackling abuse.

People wishing to remain in the UK under the points-based system are required to submit all relevant evidence in support of their application at the time that application is made. This enables caseworkers to make the right decision in the first instance, often avoiding unnecessary and expensive publicly funded appeals. It also protects the integrity of the immigration system, ensuring all necessary checks can be made and any deception identified.

But this system has been subject to misuse at the expense of the taxpayer. Individuals already in the UK but unsuccessful in their application to extend their time here have been using the appeals system as a free second application process—putting in evidence at the appeals stage which should have formed part of their application. Our management information shows that around two thirds of PBS appeals allowed by the tribunal are due to submission of further evidence at appeal.

It is not right that the taxpayer should foot the administrative and appeals bill where this information should have been put forward as part of the original application or where a second application including all the necessary information, for which we will charge, is the most appropriate route to securing a grant of leave. Section 19 will restrict the type of new evidence that can be taken into account by the tribunal. It will prevent circumvention of checks, helping restore public confidence in our immigration system and contribute to wider improvements to reduce the overall cost of the appeals system.

The commencement order will come into force on 23 May and will apply to all appeals heard for the first time against refusals of applications to remain in the UK under the points-based system, regardless of the date that appeal was lodged. Appeals that have been part or fully heard by the first-tier tribunal (immigration and asylum chamber) by this date will not be affected.

Equality and Human Rights Commission (Triennial Review)

The Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone): The first triennial review of the Equality and Human Rights Commission "How Fair Is Britain?" was laid before the House on 11 October last year. A second printing which incorporates a small number of typographical changes has now been laid before the House. Copies will be made available in the Vote Office.

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The Extraordinary Council which focused on interior issues was held on 12 May in Brussels. I represented the United Kingdom.

The Council started with an EU ministerial breakfast with the Director of the Joint Situation Centre (SitCen) who presented his assessment of the situation following the death of Osama bin Laden and changes in north Africa. Gilles de Kerchove, EU Counter-terrorism Co-ordinator, highlighted that cargo security was a priority for the EU and engagement with north African countries was essential. The UK noted that the death of Osama bin Laden was a strategic blow but the risk remained serious including from reprisal attacks and the events in north Africa served to undermine the al-Qaeda narrative.

Next the Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (non-EU Schengen states), received a state of play update on the Frontex regulation. The presidency said they would not be able to reach agreement with the European Parliament by June unless member states were flexible. Compromise would be necessary on several of the Parliament's demands, including the precise name of its proposed "European Border Guard System". The presidency stressed that the whole deal should not collapse because of disagreements over terminology. The UK is excluded from the Frontex regulation; however the UK can support activities on a case-by-case basis with the agreement of the Frontex management board.

Next there was a discussion on immigration, preparing the forthcoming June European Council discussion on migration and the Commission communication on migration. Commissioner Malmström introduced the communication and set out the Commission's priorities across all aspects of EU immigration and asylum policy. She put particular emphasis on: an effective EU response to developments in north Africa; agreeing a package deal on asylum; building conditionality into the EU's third-country agreements to deliver immigration results; and effectively combining mobility with security. On reintroducing intra-Schengen border controls, Commissioner Malmström underlined the fundamental importance of Schengen, highlighting that (based on existing legislation and an EU-level approach), the Commission's proposals would reinforce, not undermine, the Schengen framework. Guidelines would address differing interpretation of the rules, and new co-decision proposals would strengthen Schengen monitoring and evaluation to better define when and how controls could be used; that is, in exceptional circumstances and through an EU-level procedure.

The UK stated that, in order to achieve tangible results, the immediate priorities had to be border security, returns and practical support to member states. The UK wanted to see a border control taskforce sent to Tunisia to support capacity-building, provide technical assistance and support Frontex's efforts against people smuggling. On returns, the EU should do more to help return third-country nationals in north Africa back to their countries of origin. We were seeing increased numbers of asylum claims already; the Support Office should help responsible member states deal with them. Relocation was not the answer. The UK said that co-operation on migration should be an integral part of the EU's partnerships with third countries. Building stability and prosperity was in everyone's interests, and would help relieve migratory pressure. But the EU had to reinforce the principle that each country must readmit its own nationals—that was not dependent on financial incentives or visa liberalisation. The UK would not want to see a single system of European border guards, but did support greater co-ordination and co-operation. We were surprised to see proposals for further harmonisation given current high-levels of unemployment within Europe. On asylum, the UK was clear that any talk of invoking the temporary protection directive was premature and that it did not support relocation proposals as they carry a risk of acting as a pull factor to the UK. The UK was supportive of any reforms decided on by the Schengen countries that would help combat illegal immigration and strengthen the external border. Free movement was an ideal at the heart of the EU, but it was an ideal that was jeopardised when abused. Every action had to ensure that member states could maintain fair and robust immigration systems, and do nothing to create an incentive for illegal immigration into Europe.

The main Council commenced with the Commission outlining its proposals for a revised strategy on EU readmission agreements. The Commission defended increased references to human rights provisions and the introduction of a post-returns monitoring mechanism for returnees. If member states wanted the European Parliament to agree to future negotiating mandates, they would have to accept an enhanced profile for human rights. The UK believed that readmission agreements were operational instruments for facilitating returns and protection needs were already carefully considered before a return decision is reached. Therefore it was not necessary to include additional references to human rights in the agreements. Any decision on whether it is safe to return, an individual should be made on a case-by-case basis and the Commission's proposed blanket approach to suspending returns was misguided. The UK added that the Commission's proposal for a post-return monitoring mechanism was inappropriate as it could put returnees at risk. The UK stated that the starting point for any readmission strategy should be a country's obligation to readmit their own nationals and co-operation should not be solely dependent on incentives such as visa facilitation. The UK supported the Commission's proposal to refocus its readmission strategy on key countries, but noted that objective criteria would be needed as member states would have different geographical priorities. The presidency said they would draft Council conclusions (which would make reference to the importance of human rights) for consideration at the June JHA Council.

The Council received an update on the situation in Japan at the request of Belgium. The Commission said that member states had made an impressive contribution to the effort in Japan, but that this had been a wake-up call. The Commission had developed an action plan and had already started to implement the communication on strengthening disaster response. There was a need to prioritise scenario development, and they would be developing legislative proposals by the end of the year. The presidency said that the subject should be further discussed at the working level.

The Commission presented its evaluation report on the data retention directive. Most member states seem to be happy with the current directive, but it was a flexible instrument and there were large differences in how it is implemented. Member states had the opportunity to revise the directive and the Commission would submit a proposal later this year. The UK said that retained communications data were a critical tool. Ninety-five per cent of serious crime investigations used retained data, as had all major counter-terrorism investigations. It was also used on a daily basis to secure convictions and alibis. The UK did not wish to see changes made in the name of harmonisation since it should not undermine operational effectiveness.

Finally, over lunch Ministers discussed the asylum aspects of the Commission's communication on migration. The presidency and Commission tried to set up a political deal on asylum at the June European Council. The Commission said it was time to compromise; technical meetings could go on for years a package deal was needed to break the deadlock of red lines that included an emergency mechanism in Dublin in return for law enforcement access to Eurodac. Recognising that they were the most difficult directives, Commissioner Malmström set out the features of the forthcoming amended proposals on procedures and reception conditions (simplification, clarification and reduction of financial and administrative burdens). The scope for using accelerated procedures would be extended and it would be easier to reject repeated abusive claims.

There would be more flexibility on border procedures to address national security and public order concerns and a lower reporting burden. Access to the labour market could be delayed if applicants did not co-operate. The UK opened the discussion: the goals of the EU's engagement in asylum had to be practical, not legislative—both in relation to the current situation, and looking to the long-term. Refugees had to be protected, but protected where they were—they should not be expected to move around the EU. The Asylum Support Office would help member states do that (as with the Greece action plan), but further legislation to meet an artificial deadline was a distraction. The UK could not support an emergency mechanism under Dublin—it would undermine the very principle of member state responsibility for asylum claims, remove the incentive to make necessary reforms, move the problem from one place to another, and would encourage asylum seekers to target particular member states (knowing they could then move to their destination of choice). The presidency would ask COREPER to try to prepare a package for political agreement at the European Council.

JUSTICE

Draft Charter for the Coroner Service for Consultation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): The Government are today publishing a draft charter for the coroner service for public consultation. This is part of the Government's work to drive improvement in the current coroner service to address current inconsistencies and inefficiencies in the delivery of services across England and Wales.

The draft charter for the coroner service sets out the minimum standards expected from coroners. The charter will apply to all bereaved people, witnesses and other interested persons who come into contact with the coroner service.

The charter will for the first time provide a national framework that sets out the standards of service that bereaved family members, witnesses and other properly interested persons in a coroner's investigation can expect to receive from the coroner service in England and Wales. It will ensure that all coroner offices in England and Wales know the standards they should already be meeting, and that bereaved people and other service users know their rights and responsibilities throughout the investigation process. The charter will also clarify what options are available if someone wishes to make a complaint against the level of service received or against a coroner. I must stress that we are not imposing any new obligations on coroners. We are merely setting out for the first time, in an accessible and transparent format, what the current standards are.

I propose to publish the draft charter alongside the Ministry of Justice's current "Guide to Coroners and Inquests", which sets out the role of a coroner and the investigation process. This is so that people can access information about the process, and the standards that should be met, in one booklet. No major changes have been proposed to the guide and therefore I am not consulting on the guide itself. The guide and the charter will be updated as and when changes to the coroner system are introduced.

This publication marks the latest in a number of steps that the Government plan to undertake to bring about much-needed improvements to the coroner system. The charter will be followed by a review of coroners' rules and regulations, development of guidance for coroners and their officers and implementation of key provisions in the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.

In taking this work forward I am also considering how best we achieve, maintain and monitor those changes in the absence of a chief coroner. I continue to have positive discussions with Parliamentarians, the judiciary and representatives from civil society groups about the transfer functions of the chief coroner, including the leadership role, and we will be making a statement setting out the Government's plans in more detail in the near future.

Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, in the Vote Office and in the Printed Paper Office. The document is also available online, at: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultations.htm. The consultation on the draft charter will run until 5 September 2011. A response paper and the final version of the charter will be published in December 2011.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members' Salaries

The Leader of the House of Commons (Sir George Young): During the debate on 21 March 2011, I endorsed the principle of ensuring the fully independent determination and administration of MPs' salaries. This position received support on both sides of the House.

On Tuesday I signed an order to commence section 29 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 and related consequential provisions. This order has the effect of transferring to the Independent Parliamentary

Standards Authority responsibility for the determination of Members' salaries, finally removing from the House any role in setting the level of Members' pay. The order will commence the relevant provisions on Tuesday 24 May 2011.

Copies of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (Commencement No. 5) Order 2011 (SI 2011 No. 1274 (C. 52)) will be made available in the Vote Office.

TRANSPORT

Review of Investigation/Closure Procedures for Motorway Incidents

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): Today, I am publishing the preliminary report on investigation and closure procedures for motorway incidents. The joint review carried out by my Department, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Highways Agency (HA), and the Home Office, looked at what needs to be done to reduce the duration of motorway closure incidents and help keep our motorways moving. The report can be found on my Department's website, www.dft.gov.uk, and an electronic copy has been lodged with the House Library.

As set out within my Department's business plan, the review supports this Government's vision for a transport system, which is an engine for economic growth, and their commitment to tackling the causes of congestion and unreliability on the strategic road network.

Motorway closures in England cost the economy around £1 billion a year which is an unacceptable brake on the country's economic recovery. Tackling the causes of congestion and keeping traffic moving is a vital element in securing the UK's prosperity.

As such, we completed a review of motorway closure incidents to identify what improvements could be made to achieve the shortest timeline possible for managing such incidents.

The review led by this Department makes 10 recommendations, the delivery of which will ensure that there is overall improvement in the time taken to reopen motorways following an incident. The recommendations are contained within the report.

I am also announcing DFT funding of around £3 million for laser scanning technology that can be used by the police for surveying incident scenes. Recent trials by the police and HA have demonstrated that this can make a real difference in speeding up the investigation process. The £3 million will be used to set up a fund which police forces can bid from to put towards the purchase of this technology. The fund will take a match funding approach thereby potentially enabling a larger number of forces to purchase and use this equipment across the strategic road network and local road network.

Later today, I will be chairing a national summit with representatives from all key incident management parties to discuss the review's findings, and to formally agree the high-level action plan on the way forward. The majority of the review's recommendations are expected to be completed by the end of the year, and we remain on track to deliver on a further business plan commitment to set up and implement measures to reduce congestion caused by incidents by December 2012. I am confident that by having open dialogue and by continuing to work closely with the emergency services and colleagues across Government in this collaborative manner, we can manage incidents effectively, efficiently and consistently.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 23 May 2011

CABINET OFFICE

"Giving" White Paper

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): Today I have laid before Parliament the "Giving" White Paper (Cm 8084). This follows from the "Giving" Green Paper which was published on 29 December 2010 and the consultation which this launched.

We believe that everyone can make a difference. So we want to empower and encourage more people to get involved; support each other and create the change they want to see.

In the "Giving" Green Paper we set out our ambition to work with partners to inspire a step change in giving—both of time and money. We believe that giving is good. It offers benefits for everyone—those giving as well as those receiving. It does not matter how you give, or what you give, mutual support is at the core of a happy, healthy society.

We understand that stimulating social action is not easy or straightforward. Governments have tried in the past but have not succeeded in generating significant increases in giving. We are also conscious that the economic difficulties of the past few years mean we must tread carefully. Many people may be unable or unwilling to give more of their time or money if they feel stretched financially or have little time to spare.

Stimulating giving is a long-term project and we want to take a new approach that uses lessons from previous attempts. In part this is about acknowledging the limits of Government—recognising that social action is not something people can or should be compelled to do. Instead it has to be built from the bottom up through grass-roots organisations and with opportunities to give that appeal to people's motivations and interests. As we heard repeatedly in responses to our consultation, the autonomy of charities and community groups, and the voluntary nature of giving are vitally important and we are determined not just to respect but encourage this independence.

We believe that there are a range of ways Government can help to make giving easier and more compelling without "interfering" or getting in the way. We want to use a mix of approaches to achieve this: from more "traditional" policy levers such as tax incentives, funding, policy programmes and removing regulatory barriers; to "softer" approaches, such as setting a good example and bringing people and organisations together to share ideas and celebrate success.

In the White Paper we set out three core strands of activity where we want to work with partners to:

1. Make giving as easy as possible;
2. Make giving as compelling as possible;
3. Give better support to those that provide and manage opportunities to give—be they charities, community groups or others.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Pitt Review

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I am today laying before Parliament a first "National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England" and statutory guidance on "Co-operation and requesting information in flood and coastal erosion risk management". Both documents are being presented in accordance with section 7 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and stem from Sir Michael Pitt's review of the widespread flooding in 2007, and will be issued on 18 July unless either House resolves that they should not be issued.

The national strategy will provide a legally binding framework in setting out how communities, the public sector and other organisations will work together to manage flood and coastal erosion risk. The national strategy describes:

> The Environment Agency's strategic overview role for all sources of flood risk and coastal erosion, and the approach they will take to managing the risk of flooding from main rivers and the sea;
>
> The framework within which lead local flood authorities can work with other risk management authorities to manage local flood risk in their areas;
>
> The work by coastal erosion risk management authorities to manage our changing coastlines, and;
>
> How national funding and resources will be targeted towards flood and coastal erosion risk management activity in the coming years.

Copies of the national strategy and guidance on co-operation and requesting information are available to Members of the House from the Official Documents website and the Vote Office.

This Government are committed to making sure that as many communities as possible have the opportunity of benefiting from flood and coastal defences. I am therefore pleased to inform the House that following full public consultation earlier this year, my Department is today setting out a new partnership approach to funding flood and coastal resilience. The new approach aims to be both fairer and more transparent than the system it replaces, and offers the potential for much more to be achieved.

Instead of meeting the full costs of just a limited number of projects, the new approach could make Government money available towards any worthwhile scheme. Funding levels for each scheme will relate directly to the number of households protected, the value of damages being prevented, plus the other benefits a scheme would deliver. For the first time grants for surface water management and property-level protection will be available alongside funding for other risks and approaches. The reforms will not affect the amount of money that the Government themselves will invest in the coming years.

The new approach encourages better value for taxpayers' money and greater local and private contributions to come forward, in recognition of the benefits being delivered. Choices can be taken locally on whether, and how, contributions might be found. All funds invested in this way will supplement national budgets and mean more communities can be protected. By encouraging greater local choice, and more local investment, we will ensure that local ambitions for protection are not dictated by what Government alone can afford. The new approach reflects suggestions made by Sir Michael Pitt, who recommended Government introduce a scheme that allows and encourages greater local investment.

I have today written to the chair of the Environment Agency to ask this approach be adopted for all future funding approvals. The coming months will be treated as a transitional period allowing lessons to be learned and the approach to be refined before final arrangements are confirmed in time to apply from April 2013.

Finally, I would like to inform the House that summaries of responses to the following consultations and other supporting documents are also being published today:

> "Consultation on a National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England".
>
> "Consultation on Statutory Guidance on Co-operation and Requesting Information in Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management".
>
> "Future funding for flood and coastal erosion risk management: Consultation on the future Capital Grant-In-Aid Allocation Process in England".
>
> "Consultation on Guidance to Lead Local Flood Authorities on their Contribution to Sustainable Development".

The first two are available from the Environment Agency's website, and the latter two can be found on DEFRA's website.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Identity and Passport Service: Restructuring

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I am today placing in the Library of the House the Government's response to the collective consultation exercise carried out with staff and trade unions on ceasing the passport application processing capacity at Newport passport office.

I had announced shortly after commencement of the consultation period in Autumn 2010 that the Identity and Passport Service would retain a customer service centre at Newport. I can confirm that will remain the position and will provide 50 FTE posts at Newport to deal with the 47,000 customers from south Wales and the south-west who make use of the Newport office.

The consultation period was extended by two months at the request of key stakeholders. We have taken that opportunity to listen and to evaluate the responses received from staff, trade unions, Members of this House and the Wales Select Committee, Members of the National Assembly for Wales and local leaders in Newport.

We have also taken into account other organisational changes impacting on IPS, particularly the effect of voluntary exit schemes. Some 170 operational have left IPS since autumn 2010 on a voluntary basis. That has provided IPS with the opportunity to consolidate some of its operational functions throughout their regional network.

We are maintaining our intention to cease the processing of postal and online applications at Newport. This remains the most effective approach to achieve the necessary reductions in excess staffing levels and capacity in the application processing network.

However, as a result of the consolidation work undertaken by IPS, a further 100 FTE posts will be located in Newport. The Newport office will maintain the IPS central customer complaints and correspondence function and share telephone customer enquiry handling with the Durham office. The handling of lost and stolen passports will be located at Durham and Peterborough and a specialist counter-fraud team will be based at Newport. The processing of overseas passport applications will be carried out in Liverpool, Durham and Belfast after repatriation in 2013.

The current premises in Newport will be retained until the lease break in 2013. After that date, the size of the premises used for Newport will be reduced by 50%. IPS will give up excess space at their offices in Glasgow and Durham by the end of the current financial year. The Durham estate will be reduced further by March 2014 to achieve an overall reduction of one third of current capacity. A strategic review of the north-west estate will be carried out and the options for Peterborough estate assessed after the main lease break in July 2013.

The programme of work combined with the voluntary exit schemes will reduce capacity by 300 posts. The proposed consolidation of specialist work across the regional offices will lead to a surplus of around 120 FTE posts in Newport compared to the original proposal to make 300 posts surplus. IPS will continue to work with those staff, with trade unions and others to find suitable alternative employment within IPS and elsewhere.

IPS commenced the consultation with the aim of a reduction in estate of around 19% and delivering savings of approximately £24 million over the comprehensive spending review period. The planned programme of work will deliver anticipated savings of £22.6 million over the CSR period, subject to carrying out a further voluntary exit scheme later this year and rationalisation of the estate will reduce the overall IPS estate capacity by 15%.

Management of Police Pursuits: Code of Practice

The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice (Nick Herbert): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today presenting to Parliament a statutory code of practice on the management of police pursuits. Copies of the code will be available from the Vote Office.

The code is being laid under the provisions of sections 39 and 39A of the Police Act 1996. Section 39 permits the Secretary of State to issue codes of practice relating to the discharge by police authorities of any of their functions; section 39A permits her to issue codes of practice relating to the discharge of functions by chief officers where that is necessary for the purpose of promoting the efficiency and effectiveness of police forces in England and Wales. Under section 39A(7) of the Act, chief officers have a duty to have regard to a code of practice when discharging a function to which the code relates. The code must be followed unless there are good reasons not to do so, in which case the decision not to follow the code should be recorded in writing.

Over the last six years there have been on average 22 deaths a year arising immediately or subsequently from police pursuits. Following a recommendation from the Independent Police Complaints Commission, the Association of Chief Police Officers revised their existing operational guidance on the management of pursuits and asked for this to be issued as a statutory code under the Police Act. They indicated it was their clear professional judgment that a code would ensure appropriate chief officer attention to this issue and make a significant difference on the ground, with a reduced risk of deaths and serious injuries. I agree with their advice.

The Government are committed to the operational independence of the police and will respect their professional judgment. The code I am now presenting is therefore a high-level strategic document, setting national standards and requiring chief officers to have regard to the guidance prepared by the police themselves. It is the guidance, not the code, that sets out best practice and operational detail. The guidance will be periodically amended and updated by ACPO as necessary.

TRANSPORT

Strategic National Transport Corridors

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): I am today publishing our response to the comments received in the consultation on proposals to amend the criteria defining strategic national corridors (SNCs) and confirming the action we will take.

The strategic national corridors were established in 2009 to define the network over which the largest proportion of strategic traffic—that is traffic travelling between the 10 largest urban areas, 10 busiest ports and seven busiest airports in England—moves around the country. The original definition also provided for connectivity between the four nations of the United Kingdom, but there was no specific provision for connecting capital cities.

We concluded that the routes linking Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast to the nearest urban strategic destination should be recognised for the strategic connectivity that they provide, and consulted accordingly. After taking account of the consultation responses I can now confirm that we are going ahead with this change.

Specifically, we identified two routes as having national significance: namely the Al between its junction with the A19 north of Newcastle and the Scottish border, providing a defined link to Edinburgh; and a route between Bootle and the Twelve Quays ferry terminal in Birkenhead, providing connectivity with Belfast. Again, after taking account of the consultation responses, I can confirm that these routes will henceforth become roads of national significance.

A number of other suggestions were made for changes to the SNCs, including specific proposals for increases in coverage. My Department will reconsider the scope and role of the SNCs once the LEPs are well established and their role in transport decision making is clear.

The consultation documents, including the consultation response, can be found on my Department's website. An electronic copy has been lodged with the House Library.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Universal Credit (Review of Passported Benefits)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State responsible for welfare reform, Lord Freud of Eastry, has made the following statement:

> We have commissioned the Social Security Advisory Committee to undertake an independent review of passported benefits and how they link with universal credit. Passported benefits include, for example, free school meals, free milk and vitamins, free prescriptions, optical and dental care.
>
> The Committee has been asked to produce an advisory report, taking account of the UK Government's view that changes should not involve a net increase in public expenditure and the benefit system should be as simple as possible. I have placed a copy of the terms of reference in the Library.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 24 May 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Draft Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): The Government are publishing today the draft Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill and has invited pre-legislative scrutiny of it by Parliament. The groceries code adjudicator will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the groceries supply code of practice which is designed to curb abuses of power in the groceries supply chain and protect the long-term interests of consumers. The House of Commons Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee has expressed its willingness to conduct such scrutiny.

Copies of a document setting out the Government's policy for a groceries code adjudicator and the final regulatory impact assessment are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The draft Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill is presented in a way that helps wider understanding of the purpose of the proposed new law and how it would work. This is part of the Government's commitment to increase transparency and accountability of Parliament to the public. The Bill is drafted in simpler language and an explanation is given alongside each part of the legal text.

It is hoped that this approach will allow those affected by the legislation, parliamentarians, interested groups and the public, to engage more actively in the legislative process and understand the impacts of the Bill, without compromising its legal clarity and force.

The Government will be able to consider the suitability of the approach for other Bills in the light of the views they receive on this exercise.

TREASURY

Tax Avoidance

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): On 6 April 2011 the Government announced a change in legislation to prevent tax avoidance. The Government have set out a clear strategy on preventing tax avoidance. We will not hesitate to take action to stop those who seek to take unfair advantage of unintended tax loopholes. The measure demonstrates our commitment to act quickly to close these.

Legislation published today for consultation will be introduced in Finance (No.3) Bill to prevent individuals from taking advantage of a tax loophole that would have emerged had the Government not taken action. It will provide that, notwithstanding the terms of a double taxation arrangement with another territory, a payment of a pension or other similar remuneration may be taxed in the United Kingdom where:

> the payment arises in the other territory;
>
> it is received by an individual resident of the United Kingdom;
>
> the pension savings in respect of which the pension or other similar remuneration is paid have been transferred to a pension scheme in the other territory; and
>
> the main purpose or one of the main purposes of any person concerned with the transfer of pension savings in respect of which the payment is made was to take advantage of the double taxation arrangement in respect of that payment by means of that transfer.

In the event that tax is paid in the other jurisdiction, appropriate credit will be available against the UK tax chargeable.

The legislation will have effect in relation to payments of pensions or other similar remuneration made on or after 6 April 2011.

Planned Tax Consultations

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): Since the June Budget 2010, the Government have taken a number of steps to improve tax policy-making, with consultation on policy and scrutiny of legislation as the cornerstones.

Budget 2011 announced a number of tax policy changes and longer-term tax reforms that will be subject to consultation. These are summarised in the tax consultation tracker, which is available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_updates.htm

HMRC and HM Treasury are today publishing the following documents:

Employer asset-backed pension contributions—A consultation on changing tax rules in relation to the tax relief given to employers when they make asset-backed contributions to their defined benefit pension schemes.

Machine games duty—A consultation on the design characteristics of a new machine games duty.

Incapacitated person—A modern definition—A consultation on how best to modernise the language used to define an incapacitated person for direct tax purposes.

The following consultations are expected to be published before Parliament returns from recess on 6 June:

27 May

Tax reliefs—A consultation on abolishing a number of tax reliefs announced at Budget 2011, following the Office of Tax Simplification recommendations.

31 May

Capital allowances for feed-in-tariffs and renewable heat incentives—A consultation on the capital allowances treatment of plant and machinery that could qualify for feed-in-tariffs or renewable heat incentives.

Capital allowances for fixtures—A consultation on proposed changes to the capital allowances fixtures rules.

Capital allowances anti-avoidance legislation—A consultation on improvements to capital allowances anti-avoidance legislation to make it clearer and more effective.

High-risk tax avoidance schemes—A consultation on proposals to list certain high-risk tax avoidance schemes in regulations. Users of listed schemes would be required to disclose their use to HMRC and be subject to an additional charge on tax underpaid as a result of using the scheme.

Establishing the future relationship between the tax agent community and HMRC—A consultation on options for implementing HMRC's agent strategy, and ways in which tax agents and HMRC can work together more effectively.

Tackling VAT evasion on road vehicles brought into the UK—A consultation on the implementation and design of a joint HMRC-DVLA initiative to combat VAT evasion on road vehicles brought into the UK.

Any changes to these planned dates will be publicised on the tax consultation tracker.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Lords Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Edward Vaizey): My noble Friend, the spokeswoman for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport has made the following statement:

On 27 April 2011, I answered the following written PQ:

> "Lord Laird: to ask Her Majesty's Government what charges are made by mobile phone network providers for providing information to the *public* on location and incoming and outgoing calls on mobile phones removed during night-time dwelling burglaries [HL 8480]", *Official Report*, column WA142.

The question was amended and should have been answered as follows:

> "To ask Her Majesty's Government what charges are made by mobile phone network providers for providing information to the *police* on location and incoming and outgoing calls on mobile phones removed during night-time dwelling burglaries.[HL8480]"

Answer:

The police and other designated public authorities may use part 1, chapter 2 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) to require a communications service provider to disclose certain information about a communication, which may include details on the location and incoming and outgoing calls, when it is necessary and proportionate to do so. The Act allows for communications service providers to be recompensed for the cost of carrying out such disclosures.

DEFENCE

Sovereign Base Areas

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): As part of the follow-on work to the strategic defence and security review, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have agreed that a separate study of the British sovereign base areas in Cyprus should be undertaken. The study will be informed by independent advice and the noble Lord, Lord Ashcroft has agreed to undertake the role of senior independent adviser along with the hon. Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer). The study is expected to be complete by the end of 2011.

HOME DEPARTMENT

EU Directive (Third Country Nationals)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I wish to inform the House that the Government have decided to maintain the position that the UK should not opt in to the European Union directive providing for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third country nationals: Directive 2009/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009.

While sympathetic to the objectives behind this measure, the UK did not opt in under title V of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union during the negotiations because there were significant aspects of the draft directive which the UK did not support. These included the creation of additional administrative burdens on both employers and the public sector in requiring employers to notify the authorities every time they recruit new third country national employees and in requiring compliance inspections. The directive also extended the legal definition of employment in a manner creating further costs and liabilities to both employers and the authorities. This would mean, for instance, that enterprises utilising subcontractors might be held liable for instances of illegal employment by the subcontractor. The directive also guaranteed additional rights to illegally staying employees, including provision of back payments where an employee has earned less than the minimum national wage, which would be difficult to administer and would send the wrong message by rewarding breaches of immigration legislation.

Having reviewed the text post-adoption, the Government have noted that these difficulties remain and that our existing domestic provisions achieve similar outcomes without the additional burdens and costs the directive would impose on both business and the public sector. We have therefore concluded that it would not be in the UK's national interest to participate. UK legislation already provides strict controls on the employment of third country nationals who do not have the right to work in this country. Between March 2008 and the end of January 2011, the UK Border Agency issued over 5,660 penalty notices under the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 and collected over £11 million in penalty payments.

A decision not to opt in to this particular directive does not prevent the UK from engaging with the EU on other matters relating to immigration and asylum and the UK continues to play a prominent part in developing EU strategy in these areas.

TRANSPORT

British Transport Police

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): The Government are committed to the security of the country and as such keep our capabilities under constant review. As part of this, I am today announcing, with the agreement of my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, that the security of the railways and London Underground will be further enhanced by the development of a British Transport police (BTP) armed capability that will be deployed as appropriate in response to the terrorism threat level at any given time.

The Government have been considering the resilience of the overall police armed capability and have concluded that it would be beneficial to enhance this by providing the BTP with an armed capability of its own. The timing of this is not as a result of any specific threat: it is a sensible and pragmatic approach to ensuring that our police forces have the right resources to be able to respond as and when needed to protect the public.

By sanctioning the development of this armed capability, we will reduce the burden on other police forces which currently provide armed support to the BTP. This is not a major new capability in terms of overall armed policing, but by training BTP officers to carry out armed patrolling of the rail network it equips BTP with a capability already available to other police forces. Armed patrols will be deployed according to operational need—it will not be a daily event to see armed officers at stations.

We will continue to work with the BTP and others to assess the use of this capability and its effectiveness and impact. I would like to reassure Parliament that this is a measured and proportionate approach to supporting the BTP in maintaining public safety on the railway.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Defined Contribution Pension Schemes

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am pleased to be able to publish today new guidance to help those involved in offering a default investment option for people who are automatically enrolled into defined contribution pension schemes.

The pensions landscape is changing. Automatic enrolment into workplace pensions will see millions of individuals newly saving for their retirements. Many of these people will not choose to make an active investment choice. It is likely that, from 2012, automatic enrolment into default options will be the norm. Therefore, it is important that suitable default options are available.

The guidance sets out the Government's expectations on how default options should be designed, governed, communicated and reviewed. It is intended to provide useful information that will support good decision making and help protect members' interests.

I would like to thank all those groups who have been engaged on this issue and responded to our consultations.

The guidance will be placed in the Library, and be made available later today on the Department's website.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/pensions-reform/workplace-pension-reforms/guidance

Petitions

Thursday 19 May 2011

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Coastguard Services (Falmouth)

The Petition of readers of the Falmouth Packet newspaper, and others,

Declares that the petitioners believe that Falmouth Coastguard must be retained as a 24 hour a day operation, because the experience and expertise of the Falmouth Coastguard could not safely be transferred elsewhere.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to require the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to take into account the views of residents of Falmouth in the course of its consultation on the future of the Coastguard.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Sarah Newton, Official Report,* 28 April 2011; Vol. 527, c. 418.*]*

[P000919]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Government are aware of the strength of feeling about the proposals to migrate Falmouth maritime rescue co-ordination (MRCC) to a daytime only sub-centre within a national network of a small number of maritime operations centres supported by sub-centres.

The Government are proud of Her Majesty's coastguard and value the work currently carried out by operational coastguards at Falmouth. Under the proposed new arrangements, all the systems operated at Falmouth would be networked across the UK so that any search and rescue incident can be co-ordinated from any location.

An independent team of 12 experienced coastguard practitioners is reviewing all responses to the consultation launched on 16 December 2010 and will take account of this petition in their deliberations. Once the Government have considered the advice of the independent review team and the Transport Select Committee's report, the way forward will be announced.

TREASURY

Child Benefit

The Humble Petition of Mr Paul Francis Dodd,

Sheweth, that the Petitioner believes that the Government's recent announcement regarding Child Benefit is unfair; that the Petitioner is a married man with daughter aged two years, whose salary is £44,500 p.a., which is just inside the threshold for a higher rate tax payer; that the Petitioner's wife gave up work to look after their daughter and has no income; and that from 2013 the Petitioner and his wife will not be entitled to receive Child Benefit.

Sheweth, that the Petitioner believes that the Government's proposals have two flaws; that a family with both parents earning a salary less than the higher-rate tax threshold, which could total around £88,000, will continue to receive the benefit; and that, if both parents earn a salary that is half that earned by the Petitioner, £22,250, not only will they continue to receive the benefit, but they also receive two tax-free allowances for their salaries.

Sheweth, that the Petitioner believes that revisions are necessary to the Child Benefit system; that the family income should be taken into account, not just the income of one of the individuals in a family; that the Petitioner recognises that this is expensive, but he believes that it is the fairest way to judge a family's income and hence its needs for benefit; that, if this is not possible, then a gradual phasing out of the benefit for earners over the higher rate tax threshold would be very easy to implement; that it would be easy to reduce Child Benefit by one percentage point for every £1,000 earned over the higher tax threshold; that this would still leave a majority of the benefit for those earners, such as the Petitioner, who only just enter this limit; and that it would also remove Child Benefit for those who earn over £144,000.

Wherefore your Petitioner prays that your Honourable House urges the Government to review its policy on Child Benefit.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Sir Alan Beith, Official Report,* 1 February 2011; Vol. 522, c. 828 .]

[P000882]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Treasury:

The Chancellor considered a number of different options relating to Child Benefit including how any change should be delivered. As part of a balanced package to deal with Britain's record budget deficit, the Government will, from January 2013, withdraw Child Benefit from families with a higher rate taxpayer. The Chancellor wanted to avoid creating a complex new means test for household income that would have fundamentally changed the nature of Child Benefit. Withdrawing Child Benefit from households with a higher rate taxpayer can be done within existing PAYE and Self-assessment systems. This means that HMRC does not need to contact all 7.8 million households in receipt of Child Benefit. From a customer perspective, this delivery option does not place a burden on all Child Benefit claimants, it limits the impact to those households containing a higher rate taxpayer.

Affected families are within the top 20% of the incomes of all families (including those without children). Currently the threshold for a higher rate taxpayer is around £42,500. At a time when many difficult decisions have to be taken, it is not fair that people on low incomes go on being taxed to pay for the Child Benefit of those earning much more. Families with no higher rate taxpayer who receive Child Benefit, which is around 80% of all families claiming Child Benefit, will be unaffected by this policy. Child Benefit will continue to be paid in the normal way to the great majority of the population, from birth until a child leaves full time education at the age of 18 or even 19.

Petitions

Tuesday 24 May 2011

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

ESOL Funding

The Petition of students at Loughborough College, Leicestershire,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned about the Government's proposed new approach to English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), particularly the funding changes to such courses proposed in the Government's Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth document.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to consider with caution any changes to ESOL funding to ensure that they do not disproportionately affect marginalised and vulnerable people who are currently studying on ESOL courses.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Nicky Morgan, Official Report,* 10 May 2011; Vol. 527, c. 19P.*]*

[P000921]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:

Thank you for your Petition regarding English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) policy.

The Government fully appreciate the importance of English language skills in integrating into society and in finding and holding onto employment, and will continue to support ESOL through the skills system.

However, some very difficult decisions have had to be taken across Government. With only limited public funds we have had to prioritise Further Education funding on those seeking work, to help gain the skills that will improve their prospects of getting a job, and help grow the economy. Full Government funding will therefore be provided for ESOL to unemployed people in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance or in the Employment and Support Allowance (Work-Related Activity) Group, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace as public funding should not be used to substitute employer investment in training. We will continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here, and we are giving FE colleges more flexibility and freedom to prioritise funding. As part of this they will be tasked to identify particularly vulnerable learners in their communities as part of their business planning and local engagement.

The Equality Impact Assessment published alongside Skills for Sustainable Growth (November 2010) found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes to skills funding may affect ESOL learners is currently being carried out by my Department, and we expect to be able to publish the assessment before summer recess.

Funding for English for Speakers of other Languages Courses

The Petition of tutors and students of English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) in Liverpool,

Declares that the Petitioners oppose the proposed changes to the funding for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses in the Government's "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" document; notes that the Petitioners believe that the proposed changes will have a devastating effect on ESOL provision, ESOL teachers' jobs and ESOL students, particularly those on low wages; and further notes that the Petitioners believe that in Liverpool many students will be left with little hope of improving their language skills and job prospects as a result of the changes.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government not to cut funding for ESOL courses.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Luciana Berger, Official Report,* 17 February 2011; Vol. 523, c. 1214.*]*

[P000889]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:

Thank you for your petition asking the Government to reconsider their English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) policy.

The Government fully appreciate the importance of English language skills in integrating into society and in finding and holding onto employment, and will continue to support ESOL through the skills system.

However, in order to address the financial crisis some very difficult decisions have had to be taken across Government. With only limited public funds we have had to prioritise further education funding on those seeking work, to help gain the skills that will improve their prospects of getting a job, and help grow the economy. Full Government funding will therefore be provided for ESOL to unemployed people in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance or in the Employment and Support Allowance (Work-Related Activity) Group, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the work place as public funding should not be used to substitute employer investment in training. We will continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here, and we are giving FE colleges more flexibility and freedom to prioritise funding. As part of this they will be tasked to identify particularly vulnerable learners in their communities as part of their business planning and local engagement

The Equality impact assessment published alongside "Skills for Sustainable Growth" (November 2010) found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes to skills funding may affect ESOL learners is currently being carried out by my Department, and we expect to be able to publish the assessment before the summer recess.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Student Visas

The Petition of residents of Sheffield,

Declares that international students are a great social, cultural and economic asset and a key contributor to British Higher Education; that international students bring billions of pounds to the British economy, help forge vital business contacts and are important ambassadors for British culture globally; that the Petitioners do not agree with labelling international students as "immigrants" as they reside in the UK temporarily, make significant contributions and are in no way a burden to the country; that the petitioners believe that the proposed measures in the Home Office consultation on student immigration would restrict the freedom of choice of international students and would significantly damage their university experience; and that international students should retain their rights to find work experience in the UK for up to two years, to work while studying, bring their dependants to the UK, to apply for visa for a new course within the UK, and to study a second course of the same qualification.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government not to accept the changes proposed in the Home Office consultation on the current student immigration system.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Paul Blomfield, Official Report,* 24 March 2011; Vol. 525, c. 8P.*]*

[P000910]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Government agree with residents of Sheffield that genuine international students are a great social, cultural and economic asset and acknowledge that they make a significant economic contribution to the United Kingdom.

The Government believe that international students who want to come here should be able to speak English, to support themselves financially without taking paid employment, and to show that they are coming to the UK primarily for study, rather than to work or for their dependants to work. Students who wish to continue their studies in the UK will need to demonstrate that they are making progress, and we will limit the maximum period of time a student can spend studying in the UK. From the summer, only students at higher education institutions and publicly funded further education colleges will be able to work part-time during term-time, and full-time during vacations. The ability to bring dependants will be restricted to Government-sponsored students and those who are studying at postgraduate level at higher education institutions. From April 2012, only graduates who have an offer of a skilled graduate-level job from an employer licensed by the UK Border Agency will be allowed to stay in the UK to work.

The planned changes will be implemented in a phased manner which began on 21 April, and aim to protect the interests of our world-class universities, leading independent schools and publicly funded Further Education colleges. In addition to tightening the criteria education providers will have to meet in order to be able to continue to bring international students to the UK, the Government are introducing a number of measures that seek to ensure that only genuine students use tier 4, rather than those who are simply seeking to use the student route as a way in to the UK.

Over 31,000 responses were received to the Government's consultation on proposals to reform the student immigration system, and these responses have helped shape the final policy which was announced on 22 March. These changes seek to tackle abuse of the student route, whilst also supporting the Government's key objective of reducing net migration to sustainable levels.

JUSTICE

Minimum Sentence for Murder

The Petition of supporters of Families Fighting For Justice and others in Wirral, Cheshire, Merseyside,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned about the wording of section 170 of the Ministry of Justice Green Paper, Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders, regarding the Schedule 21 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, particularly the planned simplification to the minimum terms of life sentences which could result in changes to minimum sentencing.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Ministry of Justice to consider with severe caution any changes to Schedule 21 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to ensure that the length of minimum sentences for murder are not altered so as to reduce the term served.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Esther McVey, Official Report,* 11 January 2011; Vol. 521, c. 260.*]*

[P000876]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:

The Government express their deepest sympathy to all those who have lost loved ones through violent crime.

The Government have the following observations to make.

We have absolutely no intention whatsoever of reducing sentences for murder. We are not abolishing the mandatory life sentence for murder, nor are we sanctioning any reduction in the minimum terms imposed for murder. Schedule 21 does not set minimum terms for murder—that is the function of judges. It provides guidance to the courts on assessing the seriousness of cases. Any reform of the guidance will not prevent murderers continuing to receive lengthy minimum terms as part of their life sentence.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance

The Petition of members, volunteers and supporters of the Chippenham Gateway Club,

Declares that the Petitioners are opposed to the Government's proposal to stop paying the Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance for disabled adults in residential care; and notes their concern that this proposal would have a devastating impact on the Chippenham Gateway Club and similar clubs for members with learning difficulties/mental health issues throughout the UK.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government not to stop paying the Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance for disabled adults in residential care.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Duncan Hames, Official Report, 9 February 2011; Vol. 523, c. 433.]*

[P000884]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions:

We have listened and will continue to listen to what care home residents, their families and care home staff have said about how mobility support works in practice and it is clear that the current system is not working in the way it is supposed to. It is important that this uncertainty is addressed. We can guarantee this measure is not intended to remove severely disabled people's ability to get out and about but to identify and remove any overlaps.

We want to ensure that the help available is properly targeted to reflect the different circumstances in which disabled people live. This is why we are considering the evidence to determine how best to implement any changes as part of wider DLA reform and implementation of the new Personal Independence Payment, not beforehand.

The Petition of care home residents and others concerned for their welfare,

Declares that the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) helps meet some of the extra costs disabled people can face getting around; further declares that the Government plan to stop paying DLA to people living in residential care, which will mean that many people no longer have the money to meet these extra costs and face being trapped at home.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls on the Government to keep the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance for people living in residential care.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Fiona Mactaggart, Official Report, 16 February 2011; Vol. 523, c. 1096.]*

[P000887]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions:

We have listened and will continue to listen to what care home residents, their families and care home staff have said about how mobility support works in practice and it is clear that the current system is not working in the way it is supposed to. It is important that this uncertainty is addressed. We can guarantee this measure is not intended to remove severely disabled people's ability to get out and about but to identify and remove any overlaps.

We want to ensure that the help available is properly targeted to reflect the different circumstances in which disabled people live. This is why we are considering the evidence to determine how best to implement any changes as part of wider DLA reform and implementation of the new Personal Independence Payment, not beforehand.

The Petition of supporters of Muscular Dystrophy Campaign and others,

Declares that the Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) helps to meet the higher costs of accessible public transport (where available), or makes an individual eligible for an adapted vehicle through the Motability scheme; that without DLA mobility component, thousands of adults of all ages with severe disabilities who are supported by the state to live in residential care will be unable to retain voluntary employment or simply to visit family and friends; that many families with children attending residential schools will not be able to fund their own adapted vehicle, and as residential schools only provide transport for the start and end of term, with no extra provision for weekends or holidays, disabled children may end up stuck as prisoners in their own home during school holidays, unable to take part in leisure activities, or even attend essential hospital appointments; and that the decision to cut this vital benefit for children in residential schools and adults in residential care will deny thousands of disabled people the chance to live full and independent lives.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government not to cut the Disability Living Allowance Mobility Component for people living in residential care—including children attending residential schools.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr John Leech, Official Report, 8 March 2011; Vol. 524, c. 877.]*

[P000894]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions:

We have listened and will continue to listen to what care home residents, their families and care home staff have said about how mobility support works in practice and it is clear that the current system is not working in the way it is supposed to. It is important that this uncertainty is addressed. We can guarantee this measure is not intended to remove severely disabled people's ability to get out and about but to identify and remove any overlaps.

We want to ensure that the help available is properly targeted to reflect the different circumstances in which disabled people live. This is why we are considering the evidence to determine how best to implement any changes as part of wider DLA reform and implementation of the new Personal Independence Payment, not beforehand.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 16 May 2011

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55745]

Mr Paterson: None.

TRANSPORT

Car Hire: Young People

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the level of road safety of requiring car rental and leasing companies to hire vehicles to people aged under 23; and if he will make a statement. [52704]

Mike Penning: No assessment has been made. There are provisions in the Equalities Act 2010 banning age discrimination in services, public functions and associations. The Government Equalities Office has issued a consultation on proposed exemptions to the ban, which runs until 25 May 2011, with a view to new provisions coming into force in April 2012. It does not propose a specific exception for vehicle rental companies to deny services to drivers in high risk age groups, but accepts that they should be able to justify various proportionate measures to manage the risks, including requiring a minimum level of driving experience; not renting cars to people with adverse driving records; and charging higher prices to drivers in high risk groups.

Driving Offences: Fines

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of speeding fines issued to citizens of EU countries other than the UK were paid in each of the last five years. [51869]

Mike Penning: While there will have been overseas drivers caught by police for speeding, brought before the court, and fined at the time, the current system does not enable us to interrogate it sufficiently to record payments made by the nationality of the offender.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department's consultation on High Speed 2 assesses the potential economic effects of the project on the level of air passenger demand. [52746]

Mr Philip Hammond: The "Economic Case for HS2", sets out the Government's assessment of the impact of the proposed high speed rail network on air travel, available on the HS2 consultation website at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/economic-case

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the average house price within 1,000 metres of the route of High Speed 2 in Staffordshire in *(a)* February 2010 and *(b)* April 2011. [53015]

Mr Philip Hammond: My Department has not undertaken such an assessment. However, I recognise that owners of properties close to the proposed route may be experiencing blight. The exceptional hardship scheme is available now to assist those who urgently need to move but are unable to sell their property because of the high speed rail proposals. Further information on the exceptional hardship scheme can be found at:

http://www.hs2.org.uk/exceptional-hardship-scheme?pageid=1

Additionally, the current consultation on high speed rail includes information about the statutory provisions that would be available to people experiencing blight, as well as several options for additional discretionary assistance on which I would welcome people's views. The high speed rail consultation document can be found at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/

Motorcycles

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many motorcycle examiners have worked with the Transport Research Laboratory on trials of the proposed new motorcycle test since June 2010; [51574]

(2) how many trials of the proposed new motorcycle test the Transport Research Laboratory has conducted on the public highway since June 2010; at what location in each case; and how many more such trials he expects to be conducted before the proposals for a single motorcycle test event are put out to public consultation; [51587]

(3) what the total monetary value is of the contract between his Department and the Transport Research Laboratory for the trial of a new motorcycle test; how many motorcycle examiners are required to work on the trial at each stage; and what estimate he has made of the total number of working hours motorcycle examiners will have spent on the trial at its conclusion. [51589]

Mike Penning: No contract between the Department for Transport and the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) for trials of changes to the motorcycle test has yet been let. TRL has not conducted any trials of the proposed new motorcycle test since June 2010, on or off the highway, so no motorcycle examiners have been involved in trials by TRL. We plan that such trials will be carried out before we proceed to public consultation on the proposed changes to the motorcycle test.

Railways: Standards

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Network Rail on recent signal failures; and if he will make a statement. [54296]

Mrs Villiers: I regularly meet Network Rail and other key industry bodies to discuss performance issues on the network. Network Rail has briefed me on the recent signal failures, and the measures taken to minimise the impact and likelihood of such failures.

Roads: Accidents

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential role of targets in achieving reductions in deaths and serious injuries on roads. [55811]

Mike Penning: We have concluded that the best way to build on the UK's enviable record on road safety and ensure a continuing decline in road deaths and seriously injured accidents is to set out a new policy framework for road safety, including a significant degree of devolution to local authorities, rather than a series of numerical targets.

Taxis: Disability

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 relating to taxis, private hire vehicles and accessibility for disabled persons and assistance dogs to be implemented; and when he expects to launch his Department's consultation on the proportion of wheelchair accessible vehicles per local fleet that must be met before a licensing authority can refuse to grant a licence for a wheelchair accessible vehicle for the purpose of controlling taxi numbers. [53060]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The sections of the Equality Act 2010 which place duties on taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) drivers to carry assistance dogs came into force in October 2010.

Section 166, which allows taxi and PHV drivers to be exempt from the duties to assist passengers in wheelchairs for medical reasons, or under certain defined conditions, also came into force in October 2010.

We are currently considering the commencement strategy for sections 165 and 167 which deal with the imposition of the duties on taxi and PHV drivers to assist passengers in wheelchairs. We are also considering the commencement strategy for section 161 which qualifies local authorities' power to control taxi numbers. We will consult before making any regulations under this section, but we have not yet set a timetable for doing so.

The Department has no immediate plans to implement those sections of the Equality Act which are associated with a requirement for all taxis to meet certain accessibility standards.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce the successful bidder for the Thameslink rolling stock order. [54212]

Mrs Villiers: My officials are continuing to evaluate the bids from the two remaining bidders in the competition to build the new trains for Thameslink. We are planning to announce the preferred bidder shortly.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC Trust

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Southend West (Mr Amess) of 3 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 630-31W, on BBC, what the new arrangements are on which his Department is working with the BBC Trust. [55835]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The new arrangements being negotiated are those which will enable the National Audit Office to have full access to the BBC's accounts; and which will give the National Audit Office the discretion to decide in which areas of BBC expenditure it can undertake value-for-money investigations. This was announced by my Department on 22 September 2010 at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/media_releases/7438.aspx

Broadcasting

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 764, on broadcasting, whether he proposes to hold a public consultation in advance of publication of his Communications Green Paper. [55834]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Green Paper will be the primary mechanism for public consultation prior to drafting a White Paper and a draft Bill. There will be a period of engagement with interested parties leading to the publication of the Green Paper. We will outline our approach to the review via an open letter which will be published shortly.

Creative Industries Council

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to publish the minutes of meetings of the Creative Industry Council. [55810]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Minutes of Creative Industries Council meetings will be published via the DCMS website at:

www.culture.gov.uk

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what criteria he proposes to use to decide which organisations will be represented on the Creative Industries Council. [55833]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The group which met for the first time at the roundtable on 16 March was taken as the basis for the council membership. Following the model of the Automotive Council membership is comprised primarily of industry members with some representation from trade associations and other representative bodies.

Although it will not be possible to include all stakeholders with an interest in the membership of the council, this group provides cross-cutting representation from a wide spectrum of the creative and digital industries, as well as representation from smaller businesses, so each of the sub sectors and interests will have an opportunity to contribute.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against his Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54638]

John Penrose: Zero.

Heritage Lottery Fund

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many charities in Crewe and Nantwich constituency have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received awards from the Heritage Lottery Fund in each year since its establishment. [55515]

John Penrose: Since the Heritage Lottery Fund was established 15 applications have been received from, and seven awards made to, charities in the Crewe and Nantwich constituency. A breakdown can be found in the following table:

		Number
	Applications	*Awards*
1995	2	0
1996	3	2
1997	0	0
1998	1	0
1999	3	2
2000	1	0
2001	0	0
2002	0	0
2003	0	0
2004	1	0
2005	0	0
2006	1	1
2007	0	0
2008	0	0
2009	0	0
2010	2	1
2011	1	1
Total	15	7

National Lottery: Sports

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what financial assistance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the national lottery has given to (i) amateur sports clubs and (ii) professional sports clubs in Crewe and Nantwich constituency since 2010. [55510]

John Penrose: Sport England invests national lottery and Exchequer funding in community sport. Although Sport England does not record the amount of financial assistance specifically provided to amateur and professional sports clubs in constituency areas, £86,741 of lottery funding has been awarded to community sport in the Crewe and Nantwich constituency since January 2010. No Exchequer funding has been awarded during this time.

Scratch Cards: Gambling

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the potential effect on levels of gambling *(a)* in general and *(b)* among vulnerable people of the introduction of a £5 National Lottery scratchcard. [55626]

John Penrose: The National Lottery Commission scrutinised Camelot's proposals for £5 scratchcard games, to ensure that they were safe for players and did not encourage excessive play, before allowing the first such product to be launched for sale in October 2003. No such concerns have been identified since their introduction but, as with all licensed games, the Commission will continue to monitor sales data from Camelot and will take appropriate action should any issues arise.

SCOTLAND

Offshore Industry

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date he most recently met representatives of the Scottish oil and gas industry; and what the outcome was of those discussions. [55662]

Michael Moore: I last met representatives of the oil and gas industry on 31 March 2011. At this meeting we discussed concerns expressed about the impact of the fair fuel stabiliser on investment in the North sea oil and gas sector. The Government are listening to those concerns. We will work with the industry to ensure that the fair fuel stabiliser is implemented in a responsible way.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Allotments

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has any plans to make it easier for community groups to establish allotments. [55473]

Mr Paice: The Government strongly support the need for more growing spaces to be made available for people to grow their own fruit and vegetables, as a contribution to helping people understand more about where food comes from and to eat a healthy, sustainable diet. Allotment authorities have a duty to provide plots for growing food to persons resident in the area and there are no plans to change this. In addition, my officials are in regular discussion with the Department for Communities and Local Government to develop initiatives to release land which could be used by community groups and individuals wanting to grow their own food.

The Government are funding the development of a 'meanwhile lease' by DCLG, which would help provide access to land on a temporary basis for community groups and individuals wanting to grow food. DEFRA and DCLG have also jointly funded feasibility work into 'community landbanks'—effectively a land brokerage advisory service that would facilitate agreements between landholders and community groups on releasing land for community growing.

Animal Welfare

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken to improve the level of animal health and welfare in the *(a)* farming and *(b)* pet industry since May 2010. [55288]

Mr Paice: We are setting up a new Animal Health and Welfare Board for England to have responsibility for strategic animal health and welfare policy, and oversight of its delivery in relation to England. Groups within the new rural and farming network will be able to engage with Ministers on local animal health and welfare issues.

On 1 April we combined DEFRA's two key agencies for protecting animal health and welfare into a single body: the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency. This will enhance a joined up approach to responding to animal diseases and protecting the welfare of farmed animals.

A new Strategic Animal Health Policy Programme has also recently been launched, building on work done to minimise the impact of exotic diseases, through which we will be working closely with industry to promote activities which can help maintain animal health by preventing disease incursion.

We have placed increased emphasis on working with core groups of stakeholders to deliver better understanding and response to exotic notifiable disease incidents and emergencies and to develop new disease control strategies.

Working closely with farmers, the veterinary profession and others, we have made good progress towards improving the level of animal health and welfare:

We conducted a public consultation at the end of 2010 on the Government's approach to tackling bovine tuberculosis (TB) and a badger control policy, which also highlighted a number of planned changes to existing cattle measures to ensure that that they are better targeted on the basis of disease risk. We will be announcing a comprehensive and balanced TB eradication programme for England as soon as possible.

We have reviewed the implementation of the Veterinary Surveillance Strategy to ensure that risks and emerging threats are effectively identified and prioritised. We continually monitor and assess the global animal health situation to help inform risk-based controls on imports of animals and animal products.

We have continued to support the development of a surveillance system for diseases and issues in pet animals. This has been led by the University of Liverpool using a consortium approach and has now completed a successful pilot project, the Small Animal Veterinary Surveillance Network, which is now accessing data from veterinary surgeons and veterinary laboratories across the United Kingdom.

We have improved our arrangements for conducting veterinary risk assessments and prioritisation and established a standardised, peer-reviewed evidence base for policy development.

We have continued to work to improve the availability of veterinary medicines for farm and pet animals by, for example, allowing the importation of medicines from other member states when there is a supply problem in the UK.

We implemented EU Council Directive 2007/43, which lays down minimum standards to protect the welfare of conventionally reared meat chickens. The implementing regulations set a maximum stocking density of 39 kg/m^2, sets training requirements for all keepers and requires post mortem conditions and mortality rates to be assessed as an indicator of on-farm welfare.

The Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes came into force in January 2011.

DEFRA completed its review of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and presented its findings in the form of a Command Paper to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in December 2010.

Carbon Emissions

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will include in the proposed Roadmap to a Green Economy a commitment to *(a)* measure and *(b)* reduce the UK's total carbon footprint, including (i) emissions from consumption and (ii) outsourced emissions embedded in imports. [54918]

Mr Paice: In 2008 DEFRA published an evidence study that measured UK embedded emissions: "Embedded carbon emissions indicator—EV02033". We are now carrying out further work to update these findings.

DEFRA is involved in a range of actions that will be covered in the Green Economy Roadmap to tackle embedded emissions. These actions include mandatory efficiency standards for energy using products, helping businesses to improve the efficiency of their supply chains, establishing voluntary agreements with businesses, introducing mandatory Government Buying Standards, advising on environmental claims and labels, and encouraging pro-environmental behaviours.

Departmental Legal Opinion

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many veterinarians are employed in her Department's legal team. [55461]

Mr Paice: None.

Horse Passports

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps her Department has taken in respect of horse owners who do not possess a passport for a horse; and if she will make a statement. [55290]

Mr Paice: All horse owners are required by law to obtain a passport for each horse they own and it is the responsibility of the appropriate local environmental health and trading standards officers to enforce the horse passport regulations throughout England. Penalties can be applied by the courts for non-compliance.

Ivory

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the illegal importation of ivory. [55236]

Richard Benyon: I announced on 2 March 2011 that the illegal trade in elephant ivory and all other species listed under the convention on international trade in endangered species is a UK wildlife crime priority, and it will continue to be tackled vigorously by the enforcement agencies.

Palm Oil: Labelling

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to support the mandatory labelling of palm oil on food packaging in negotiations on the revision of European regulations on food labelling; and if she will make a statement. [54981]

Mr Paice: Current food labelling law permits manufacturers to choose to label oils, when used as ingredients, under the generic name 'vegetable oil' (which could include any mixture of refined oil, other than olive oil) to allow for variability of supply in the type of the oils used and avoid label changes. If the palm oil was to be sold on its own it would need to be sold using the term 'palm oil' or any name that was sufficiently precise to indicate the true nature of the food and to distinguish it from any other food with which it could be confused, or a customary name.

Amendment 387 to the proposed food information regulation which will replace the existing food labelling directive (from which our legislation derives) has been proposed by the European Parliament. This would make it mandatory for all the specific types of vegetable oil, including palm oil, to be separately labelled in food ingredients. It is one of a number of amendments asking for more information to be provided about oils which are used as an ingredient in pre-packed foods. Discussions on the regulation are ongoing and it is unclear whether this provision will be included in the final regulation.

I consider that this requirement for mandatory labelling of all vegetable oils in foods is unlikely to be a cost-effective approach to improving the sustainability of palm oil production and consumption. It may be burdensome for businesses to identify all the individual oils given the high number of products affected, often containing only small quantities of oils, and it would not inform consumers about whether or not the palm or other oils were sustainably produced. There is nothing to prevent manufacturers providing further information on a voluntary basis.

Pesticides: Bees

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many acres of arable cropland are regularly treated with neonicotinoid pesticides; where such croplands are located; and what studies her Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on bee population levels in those areas. [51050]

Mr Paice: Information from the published 2008 Great Britain Arable Survey under the Government's Pesticides Usage Survey Programme shows that across England (898,455 hectares), Scotland (53,126 hectares) and Wales (6,034 hectares) a total area of 957,615 hectares was treated with neonicotinoid insecticides. More information on the Government's Pesticide Usage Survey programme is available on the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) website.

No specific study has been commissioned on honey bee population levels in areas treated with neonicotinoid insecticides.

Pets: Complementary Medicine

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken to tackle the sale of unauthorised herbal and homeopathic pet remedies in 2011; and if she will make a statement. [55286]

Mr Paice: Where unauthorised herbal medicines have been brought to the attention of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), letters have been written to the suppliers with a view to ensuring these products are remarketed in compliance with the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2009. The VMD has entered into correspondence about five such products.

No similar action has been taken in relation to any specific homeopathic product, since complaints have not been received from interested third parties. However, the VMD is aware of general concerns about the safety of homeopathic nosodes and sarcodes and investigations are being considered.

When the need to enforce the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2009 is identified, the VMD's enforcement strategy is followed. The strategy can be found on the VMD's website at:

http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/public/enforcement.aspx

It lays out a step-wise and proportionate approach to enforcement, which begins with a letter to set out how compliance with the law has not been met. Only when the correspondence has been completed and enforcement actions continue to be required will penalties such as improvement notices be issued. If necessary, a subsequent resolution through the courts can be sought.

Pigeons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department is taking steps to reduce the number of pigeons in England. [55240]

Richard Benyon: Pigeons are an agricultural pest and in more urban areas pigeons carry a range of diseases that can be harmful to humans. For this reason, Natural England issues a general licence, which allows authorised persons (e.g. owners/occupiers/local authorities or persons authorised by them) to kill or take these birds all year round. The licensing regime provides a legal framework within which local authorities and other authorised persons can take action to address a particular problem. The licence permits adult population control, egg control and nest clearance.

DEFRA has no plans to instigate a national pigeon control programme.

River Rom

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps have been taken to improve, manage and maintain the River Rom in Essex. [55235]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency spends approximately £40,000 per annum in carrying out maintenance and programmed debris clearance of the River Rom and its tributaries.

The maintenance regime includes trimming vegetation growth annually on the River Rom during the winter months and on the main tributaries during the summer. The Environment Agency also inspects these rivers every month and removes any debris likely to obstruct flood flows.

This regime has been in place for many years, and will continue as long as priorities and funding allow. However ultimate responsibility for the maintenance and repair of any watercourse rests with the riparian owner.

Rural Areas: Community Development

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many bodies have participated in the LEADER programme in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [54757]

Mr Paice: There are currently 64 local action groups (LAGs) that implement the Leader approach under the Rural Development Programme for England. LAG membership is made up of representatives from a range of local organisations as well as individuals. These would usually include representatives of local authorities but actual membership will vary depending on local interests and businesses.

In each of the last three calendar years the number of projects proposed by local organisations and individuals and approved by LAGs is:

	Number
2008	41
2009	538
2010	1,334

Squirrels

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimates she has made of the number of black squirrels in England. [55241]

Richard Benyon: Black squirrels are a colour variant of the non-native American grey squirrel. Although no specific monitoring of their numbers is undertaken, they have been reported as being present in several areas in England, including Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Huntingdonshire.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps her Department is taking to ensure the long-term survival of red squirrels in England; [55243]

(2) what recent steps her Department has taken to affect the number of red squirrels in England. [55244]

Richard Benyon: In England, the approach to red squirrel conservation is to secure long-term habitat and conditions favouring the red squirrel in areas which grey squirrels have not yet reached in significant numbers, and to limit grey squirrel expansion into these areas.

The Forestry Commission and Natural England are, on behalf of the Government, delivering this policy in partnership with the Red Squirrel Survival Trust, the Wildlife Trusts, landowners and volunteers, through the Red Squirrel North England Project. A project manager has been employed by the Red Squirrel Survival Trust with the remaining staff being hired by the Wildlife Trusts. Funding is being provided by all partners and volunteers will be taking a central role in the new project.

In the north of England 17 reserves have been identified where long-term survival of the species is considered most likely. Targeted control of grey squirrels is carried out in the reserves and surrounding buffer zones. In addition, the reserves and surrounding areas are being managed in ways that favour red squirrels. In the south-east, where there are secure populations on the Isle of Wight and Poole Harbour islands, there is an action plan in place to respond to the appearance of grey squirrels.

Tree Planting

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many voluntary groups in the west midlands have joined the Big Tree Plant scheme. [55289]

Mr Paice: The Big Tree Plant is helping communities in England to plant a million trees in areas where they live and work over the course of this Parliament. Civil society partners and volunteers have been very active in the west midlands.

Voluntary groups do not "sign up" but they are welcome to contribute to the Big Tree Plant by registering trees planted through the project website or by applying to the twice yearly Grant Scheme competition. About 70 groups or individuals (including several from the west midlands) have registered their trees through the website so far; while for the Grant Scheme we will announce the conclusion of the first round and the date of the next deadline soon.

UN Convention on Biodiversity's Nagoya Protocol

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what *(a)* date and *(b)* process she intends to sign and ratify the UN Convention on Biodiversity's Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing. [55610]

Richard Benyon: The UK was highly influential in bringing the negotiations on access and benefit sharing to a successful conclusion in Nagoya. The resulting protocol to bring the agreement into effect was opened for signature in February, but many contracting parties have had to delay signature because of a translation problem. This is likely to be resolved in June and we expect to be able to sign soon afterwards. It will be signed by the British ambassador to the United Nations in New York, as the United Nations is the depositary for the protocol. The process of ratification will take longer.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh: Special Educational Needs

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided for the provision of education in Bangladesh to children with special education needs. [55605]

Mr Duncan: UK support to the Bangladesh second Primary Education Development Programme (PEDPII) helped benefit 78,000 children with special needs in government primary schools between 2004 and 2011. It also developed relevant policy and guidance. The largest non-government organisation in the world, BRAC, provided high quality primary school education to 28,000 children with special needs in 2010, mainly with UK Government support.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department provided to Burma in 2009-10; and how much it plans to provide to that country for *(a)* cross-border humanitarian aid, *(b)* education and *(c)* health care in each of the next four years. [55716]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided a total of £28 million in bilateral aid to Burma in 2009-10.

Over the next four years, we plan to focus our aid for Burma on health care, education, livelihoods, civil society and humanitarian assistance. A detailed breakdown by sector and year will appear in DFID's Operational Plan for Burma which will be published on our website at the end of this month.

Specific sums have not yet been allocated to cross-border aid. We plan to continue to deliver aid cross-border where that is the best way of reaching people in greatest need. Specific project allocations will be decided on the basis of detailed assessments of effectiveness, and value for money in achieving results.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the funding allocated by his Department to support the forthcoming presidential and legislative elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been allocated to support *(a)* the participation of female parliamentary candidates and *(b)* the registration of female voters. [55166]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £30 million through the United Nations to support the 2007-13 electoral cycle in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Of this, £625,000 has been set aside specifically to improve the participation of women in voter registration, elections and candidacy to Parliament. Our support should ensure that at least 52% of citizens registered to vote and casting their vote are women. In addition, DFID is also providing £1.5 million of support through the International Foundation for Electoral Systems to improve public understanding of the electoral process, particularly among women and first-time voters.

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on recent disruption by the Congolese national police of political opposition rallies in *(a)* Bukavu and *(b)* other parts of the DRC. [55167]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) works in close partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in promoting free and fair elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Together we closely monitor reports of intimidation and harassment of opposition figures. We work with our EU partners to follow up cases of concern, and liaise regularly with the UN stabilisation mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) Joint Human Rights Office and local NGOs to assess the situation. We continue to press the Government of the DRC at the highest levels on these issues, including during recent meetings with the President, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister.

Additionally, we are working to support a transition towards democratic policing in DRC. Central to this is improving respect for human rights. We are actively engaging with the Government of the DRC, provincial governments and the police to promote adherence to democratic principles of policing during the elections process.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which overseas countries UK-employed staff of his Department are based; and how many such employees are based in each such country. [55504]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development does not publish the numbers of staff serving overseas by specific location as this may represent a security risk to such staff, especially those serving in fragile states or hostile environments.

As at the end of April 2011 we had 412 UK employed civil servants serving in 43 overseas countries: Afghanistan; Barbados; Belgium; Brazil; Burma; Burundi; China; Democratic Republic of Congo; Bangladesh; India; Indonesia; Nigeria; South Africa; Ethiopia; France; Ghana; Guyana; Iraq; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kosovo; Kyrgyzstan; Malawi; Montserrat; Mozambique; Nepal; Pakistan; Rwanda; Sierra Leone; St Helena; Sudan; Switzerland; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Uganda; USA; Vietnam; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

Developing Countries: Education

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to enable children who do not have access to education to do so. [55571]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development is working to support partner governments to overcome the barriers that children face in accessing education. We are investing in methods that are proven to work, such as reducing the cost of education, and we are pursuing flexible and responsive approaches to education in situations of fragility or conflict, including through partnerships with non-state providers.

As stated in the DFID publication 'UK Aid: Changing Lives, Delivering Results', we pledge to support at least nine million children in primary school, over half of whom will be girls, and two million children in secondary school by 2014.

Developing Countries: Food

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to assist the UN World Food Programme. [55268]

Mr Duncan: The UN World Food Programme was assessed as a strong performer in the Department for International Development's Multilateral Aid Review. The Government are currently considering UK support to the organisation in light of this review and our response to the Humanitarian and Emergency Response Review which will be announced shortly.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Security Certificate

Priti Patel: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, for what reason the security certificate for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority website has expired. [54873]

Mr Charles Walker: It has not been possible to provide a response to this question by the named day. An answer will be provided as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Charles Walker to Priti Patel:

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated May 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for what reason the security certificate for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority website has expired.

The certificate purchased was valid for 12 months and it reached its expiry date. The certificate was purchased by the IPSA implementation team (which is no longer in place) in March 2010 and activated in April 2010 and the renewal notice was sent to the registered purchaser, not to IPSA or our managed service provider, Calyx. Future renewals will be managed by our IT contractor to ensure that this problem is not repeated.

The certificate has now been renewed.

Priti Patel: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, on what date the security certificate for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority website expired; when the security certificate will be renewed; what assessment has been made of any risks resulting from the expiration of the security certificate; and who was responsible for permitting the security certificate to expire. [54874]

Mr Charles Walker: It has not been possible to provide a response to this question by the named day. An answer will be provided as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Charles Walker to Priti Patel:

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated May 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking when the security certificate for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority website expired; when the security certificate will be renewed; what assessment has been made of any risks resulting from the expiration of the security certificate; and who was responsible for permitting the security certificate to expire.

The certificate expired on the 20 April 2011 and was renewed on the 5 May 2011. An assessment of the risks was undertaken by our managed service provider, Calyx, at the time and the risk was deemed to be low and that security levels were not diminished during this period.

The certificate was purchased by the IPSA implementation team (which is no longer in place) in March 2010 and the renewal notice was sent to the registered purchaser, not to IPSA or to Calyx. Future renewals will be managed by our IT contractor to ensure that this problem is not repeated.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

David Kelly

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Attorney-General how many representations he has received on the need for a coroner's inquest into the death of Dr David Kelly. [55906]

The Attorney-General: There has been a large amount of correspondence received on this matter since the first request was made to the Attorney-General to apply to the court for an inquest to be ordered into the death of Dr David Kelly by the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) in 2008. Since then representations have been made by letter, e-mail and telephone. No complete record of the total number of representations made has been maintained. However, I can say that since July 2010 I have given 14 written replies in answer to letters from Members of Parliament. In addition, since January 2011, I have received 82 pieces of correspondence from 22 individuals making representations of some kind in respect of this matter.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Absent Voting

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, how many postal votes were issued for *(a)* the 2010 general election and *(b)* elections held in May 2011. [55594]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that nearly 7 million postal votes were issued across the UK at the 2010 parliamentary general election.

The Electoral Commission is currently collecting data for the 5 May elections from Returning Officers, including the number of postal votes issued. The commission will include final figures for the number of postal votes issued in its report on the elections, which is due to be published in the autumn.

Alternative Vote

Mr Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, for what reason no counting of votes for the referendum on the alternative vote was permitted until 4:00 pm on 6 May 2011. [55438]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that the chair of the commission, as chief counting officer for the referendum, announced her decision on the timing of the count, and the reasons for it, in December 2010. This followed consultation with Members of Parliament, electoral administrators, potential campaigners —including political parties—and broadcasters across the UK.

The decision was taken because the commission believes it is important that voters should know who represents them, and who will form new governments and councils, as soon as possible. Starting the referendum count the next day meant that the counts for the scheduled elections could take place as soon as possible after the close of poll, while also allowing the result of the referendum to be counted on a UK-wide basis.

The commission further informs me that the chief counting officer's consultation and decision papers were published on its website and disseminated to a wide group of interested parties, including Members of Parliament. Copies of those papers have also been placed in the Library of the House of Commons.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Christianity

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to help ensure the rights of Christians are observed in Afghanistan. [55790]

Alistair Burt: We work closely with international partners to monitor the situation of Afghan Christians and to raise this issue with the Afghan Government.

We continue to remind the Afghan Government of their duty to abide by their national and international commitments on freedom of religion and belief, and to respect the freedom of worship as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution.

Bahrain: United Arab Emirates

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of *(a)* military personnel and *(b)* police officers that the United Arab Emirates contributed to the Gulf Co-operation Council force despatched to Bahrain in March 2011. [54828]

Alistair Burt: On 14 March 2011 Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) forces were deployed to Bahrain in response to a Bahraini request for assistance under the GCC Peninsula Shield agreement. This included a military contingent from United Arab Emirates (UAE). No confirmed figures for the exact number of UAE personnel are available.

British Indian Ocean Territory

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on facilitating grave-tending visits to the Chagos Islands in each of the last 10 years. [55802]

Mr Bellingham: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The budget for the current year for visits of all kinds (grave-tending, heritage, environmental work, etc.) is £50,000.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department are stationed in the British Indian Ocean Territory. [55803]

Mr Bellingham: There are no Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials stationed in the British Indian Ocean Territory.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people illegally residing in the British Indian Ocean Territory were evicted in each of the last 10 years. [55806]

Mr Bellingham: The Clerk of the Court is only required to hold records for the last five years. During this period, there have been no evictions for illegally residing in the British Indian Ocean Territory.

British Indian Ocean Territory: Environment Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the Marine Protected Area around the Chagos archipelago is enforced. [55804]

Mr Bellingham: Enforcement is led by a marine protection officer working on board the Pacific Marlin patrol boat. The British Indian Ocean Territory Administration operates a system of permits to control access to and activities within the Marine Protected Area. We also work closely with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to limit illegal fishing.

Departmental Pay

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what additional pay he plans to provide to officials in his Department in the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2013 to reflect *(a)* seniority, *(b)* promotion and *(c)* performance. [55413]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO) plans to provide the following additional pay to officials in the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2013. All payments adhere to central guidance issued by the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury.

(a) Seniority—The FCO does not make additional payments to any staff based on seniority.

(b) Promotion—For staff below the senior civil service (SCS) we plan that promotion between grades within a payband will continue to attract a salary increase of 7.5% or an increase to the higher grade minimum. Promotion to a higher payband will continue to attract a salary increase of 10% or an increase to the higher grade minimum.

Staff being promoted to or within the SCS will continue to attract a salary increase of 10% or to the higher grade minimum.

(c) Performance—Staff below the SCS enter the 2-year public sector pay freeze for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2013, so there will be no base pay increases for those earning over £21,000. We will continue to pay performance related pay linked to the annual appraisal process. The amounts paid will range from £720 to £2,990.

Performance related pay (PRP) for staff in the SCS follows central guidelines issued annually by the Cabinet Office, following recommendations by the Senior Salaries Review Body. For 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 we will pay PRP to the top 25% of performers only. This relates to performance in the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. The amounts paid will be according to guidance from Cabinet Office.

We do not yet know what will be paid from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

Hamas: Guided Weapons

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the acquisition by Hamas of long-range rocket and high-specification anti-aircraft missiles; what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [55348]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned by reports that Hamas continue to acquire and test a variety of weapons. This is a continuing picture and we are not able to comment further on the detail. However, we have long made it clear that the arming and funding of Hamas and other Palestinian rejectionist groups is unacceptable.

Ilois: Resettlement

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to enable Chagos Islanders to return to the British Indian Ocean Territory. [55809]

Mr Bellingham: This Government believe that, on the grounds of feasibility and defence security, there are clear and compelling reasons to oppose the resettlement of British Indian Ocean Territory. However, we have facilitated a number of visits to the islands for former inhabitants and their descendants, including to assist with environmental projects, and will continue to do so.

Israel: Terrorism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on Israel's security concerns since 14 February 2011; and if he will make a statement. [55296]

Alistair Burt: We have regular dialogue with the Government of Israel at both ministerial and official level. The Prime Minister met with the Israeli Prime Minister on 4 May. I visited Israel and the Occupied Territories in January 2011 and met Foreign Minister Lieberman. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs also visited in November 2011. Foreign Minister Lieberman met with the Foreign Secretary and myself when he visited London on 24 January 2011. Officials will attend the rescheduled Strategic Dialogue talks in the summer 2011 in Israel. A wide range of issues will be discussed at these various meetings, including security.

Middle East: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 395-6W, on Middle East: anti-Semitism, if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the independent research from institutions such as Chatham House, Carnegie Middle East Centre and the Brookings Institute and *(b)* the report mapping Arab public opinion towards Israel, across six Arab states referred to in the answer; and if he will make a statement. [55299]

Alistair Burt: Chatham House has not produced any recent analysis specifically focused on anti-Semitism. However, I will place in the Library a copy of the 2010 report analysing Anti-Semitism Worldwide produced by the Steven Roth Institute at Tel Aviv University. An original copy can be found at:

http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/

I will also place a copy of the 2010 Arab Public Opinion Poll by the Carnegie Middle East Centre in partnership with the Brookings Institute in the Library as requested. An original copy may be found at:

http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2010/0805_arab_opinion_poll_telhami.aspx

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his UN counterparts on Judge Goldstone's recent comments on his report on the Gaza war; and if he will make a statement. [55349]

Alistair Burt: The Goldstone report outlines serious allegations of breaches of international humanitarian law during the Gaza conflict. Justice Goldstone stated in his recent comments that some aspects of his report would look differently in light of new evidence, correcting the allegation in the report that Israel intentionally targeted civilians.

Justice Goldstone has made clear that there is no reason to reconsider the various other serious allegations contained in the report at this time. This is consistent with our longstanding policy of calling for full, credible and independent investigations by the parties into any and all allegations of breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL).

Allegations of breaches of IHL made against all parties to the Gaza conflict are not limited to the Goldstone report and have arisen from various other credible sources. We firmly believe that any and all such allegations must be met with credible and independent investigations by the parties to the conflict.

Middle East: British Nationals Abroad

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has distributed guidance to British nationals in *(a)* Tunisia, *(b)* Egypt and *(c)* Libya during the recent political unrest in those countries on (i) consular arrangements which his Department has put in place to represent British interests through the embassies of other countries and (ii) their rights under Article 20 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [54985]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 10 May 2011]:* Our embassies in Tunis and Cairo remained functional throughout recent events and this question therefore did not arise there. In Libya, the Hungarian embassy remains open and British nationals can seek assistance there or from any other EU member state embassy that remains open. The Hungarians have already provided consular assistance to a number of unrepresented EU nationals in Libya. Arrangements for accessing consular assistance have been communicated to British nationals through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) travel advice, available on the FCO website.

We also distribute guidance to British nationals regarding their rights under Article 20. This is set out in the FCO publication "Support for British nationals abroad" which is also available on the FCO website. While the guide does not explicitly mention Article 20, it makes clear that if British nationals need help in a country where there is no British diplomatic or consular mission, they can receive help from the diplomatic or consular mission of another member of the European Union.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps he is taking to press *(a)* Hamas and *(b)* other Palestinian terrorist organisations to renounce violence; what discussions he has had with (i) the government of Israel, (ii) the Palestinian Authority and (iii) the Arab League on this issue; and if he will make a statement; [R] [55295]

(2) what recent steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to press Hamas to accept the Quartet Principles; and if he will make a statement; [R] [55300]

(3) what steps he is taking with his international counterparts to press Hamas to accept the Quartet Principles and join the negotiations between the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority; and if he will make a statement. [R] [55301]

Alistair Burt: As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has said publically, there is an urgent need for peace in the middle east. We hope that the announcement of reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas will advance that cause. To do so we expect to see a government that rejects violence and pursues a negotiated peace. President Abbas reaffirmed his commitment to those principles in Cairo. But the government has yet to be formed. When it is we will judge it by its actions and its commitment to non violence and working for peace.

Middle East: Politics and Government

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of comments by the leadership of Hamas on the attitude of the interim Palestinian government towards seeking peace with Israel; and if he will make a statement. [R] [54847]

Alistair Burt: The agreement was signed at a ceremony in Cairo on 4 May 2011, attended by President Abbas for the Palestinian Authority, Khaled Mishaal for Hamas and the Egyptian Foreign Minister, el Araby. A representative from our embassy in Cairo attended as an observer, along with key EU partners.

The Prime Minister met with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on 4 May 2011 and discussed the announcement on Palestinian unity. We renew our calls on both sides to commit to peace talks, leading to a Palestinian state that exists in peace and security alongside Israel. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has been clear that Britain hopes that the announcement of reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas will lead to the formation of a government that rejects violence and pursues a negotiated peace, and we will judge a future Palestinian government by its actions and its readiness to work for peace.

We will continue to monitor and discuss with the Palestinian Authority, Arab League and US via our embassies.

Yemen: Humanitarian Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps he is taking to address the humanitarian needs of Yemen; [55169]

(2) what support he is providing to the UN-administered Yemen humanitarian response plan. [55150]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is finalising a contribution to UNICEF and the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in support of the 2011 UN Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan. I will announce further details of this support shortly.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much aid the UK provided to Yemen in the latest period for which figures are available. [55269]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development disbursed over £47 million of official development assistance through our bilateral country programme in the 2010-11 financial year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with representatives of the alcohol industry on the alcohol content of their products. [55215]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

The Department of Health is in regular contact with a wide range of industry interests to discuss both the alcoholic content of specific products and alcoholic drinks more generally.

Most recently the Department of Health has been talking to industry within the context of the Public Health Responsibility Deal, which was launched on 15 March 2011. Among other things, we are looking at commitments from industry to foster a culture of responsible drinking, which will help people to drink within recommended limits. We will be publishing regular progress reports on this work, and other Alcohol Network workstreams, on the Department of Health's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Publichealthresponsibilitydeal/index.htm

Asylum

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-asylum cases were granted settlement outside the immigration rules in each year since 1997. [55599]

Damian Green: The available information is given in the following table. It shows the number of people granted indefinite leave (settlement) outside the immigration rules, 2004 to 2010, either:

in non-asylum and non-protection cases where someone qualifies under one of the immigration policy concessions (indefinite leave outside the rules-concession); or

for other reasons (indefinite leave outside the rules-no concession).

The data provided for "other reasons" include asylum as well as non-asylum cases from 2007 as from that year they include persons granted indefinite leave outside the immigration rules under measures aimed at clearing the backlog of unresolved cases.

It is not possible to determine how many grants of "indefinite leave outside the immigration rules for other reasons" relate to non-asylum cases or to provide corresponding information prior to 2004 without detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Grants of settlement[1, 2, 3] by selected outcome, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals[4], 2005-10[5]

Number of persons

Recorded outcome	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[6]	*2010*[6]
Indefinite leave outside the rules—concession	10	5	10	70	610	1,330	1,155
Indefinite leave outside the rules—no concession[7]	5	25	20	13,655	23,395	30,690	74,380

[1] Includes reconsideration cases and the outcome of appeals.

[2] May include a small number of cases in which a decision is recorded twice, where an individual has dual nationality.

[3] Includes dependants.

[4] Nationals of EU accession countries are included or excluded according to their accession date.

[5] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, * = 1 or 2).

[6] Provisional figures.

[7] Data from 2007 onwards include asylum as well as non-asylum cases as from that year they include persons granted indefinite leave outside the immigration rules under measures aimed at clearing the backlog of outstanding unresolved cases.

Asylum: Housing

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to ensure that housing provided to asylum seekers meets the needs of its tenants. [55433]

Damian Green: Accommodation for asylum seekers is provided on behalf of the UK Border Agency by both private and public sector providers. Accommodation is designed to be safe and habitable and each contract contains a "Statement of Requirements" that dictate the minimum standards expected from each provider. UK Border Agency regional contract compliance teams regularly undertake audits of contract compliance and perform physical property inspections to ensure standards are maintained.

Accommodation providers are committed to providing such standards and if failures occur a number of measures are taken including financial penalties in the form of service credits and ultimately termination of contracts where there is evidence of persistent failures.

A copy of the "Statement of Requirements" is available from the House Library.

Crime: Foreign Nationals

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of crimes committed by nationals of other EU member states in the latest period for which figures are available. [54544]

Nick Herbert: No estimates have been made centrally. The Home Office has two sources of crime statistics, namely the British Crime Survey and the police recorded crime statistics. However, neither source collects any information on the nationality of the alleged offenders.

Criminal Records: Disclosure of Information

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to implement the recommendations of the Mason Review of criminal record disclosures to remove old and minor conviction information from criminal records checks. [55519]

Lynne Featherstone: Careful consideration is being given to the extent to which this recommendation should be implemented and to the appropriate route for doing so. A full response to all Mrs Mason's recommendations will be made once she has completed phase two of her independent review of the criminal records regime, which is expected to be by the end of June 2011.

The Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders' referred to the possibility of filtering old and minor convictions so that they need not be disclosed under criminal records checks. A formal Government response to that consultation paper will be issued shortly.

Detainees: Telephone Calls

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what comparison the UK Border Agency has made of the cost of calling cards for the new telephone system for detainees with the price of commercially available calling cards; [55430]

(2) who will be responsible for the payment for calling cards for the new telephone system for detainees. [55431]

Damian Green: As part of its contract with the UK Border Agency to operate Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre, G4S is required to provide detainees with a telephone system that enables them to communicate with relatives and representatives.

G4S commenced a trial mobile phone system in February 2011 to address concerns about poor signal coverage from the existing DECT phone network and other mobile networks. It will be evaluated at the end of May 2011. G4S has had to provide substantive evidence to the UK Border Agency that any charges associated with the use of this system are broadly comparable to those charged by the main networks.

On arrival at Tinsley House each detainee is provided with a number of free minutes to ensure they have a means of making telephone calls. Subsequent costs for making calls are charged to each detainee via a personal account on a per second basis.

Departmental Refreshments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on *(a)* bottled water and *(b)* coffee in each month of the last five years. [50400]

Damian Green: Data for the Home Department, inclusive of the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), for the period prior to financial year 2010-11 can be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Period 1 April 2010 to 28 February 2011

£

	(a) bottled water	*(b) coffee*
Home Department (including UKBA and CRB)	25,000	745

Driving Offences

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers were fined for speeding in England and Wales in each year since 2008 in each police force area. [53399]

James Brokenshire: There were 1.1 million fixed penalty notices issued by the 43 police forces of England and Wales for speeding in 2009 and 1.2 million issued in 2008.

A breakdown by police force area for 2009 can be found on page 67, table 3.01, column 16 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Powers and Procedures 2009/10". The publication is available in the Library of the House and at the following weblink:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb0711/

A breakdown by police force area for 2008 can be found on page 54, table 3.01, column 16 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Powers and Procedures 2008/09". The publication is available in the Library of the House and at the following weblink:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0610.pdf

Data for 2010 are due to be published in April 2012.

Marriage of Convenience: Arrests

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 673-4W, on Operation Gomozia, how many arrests have been made of non-EU nationals who had been granted leave to remain. [55156]

Damian Green: Two non-EU nationals who had been granted leave to remain have been arrested. A further five who had not been granted leave to remain have also been arrested, together with 14 EU nationals. The UK Border Agency is still investigating the Operation Gomozia cases and anyone who has gained leave as a result of this scam will have that leave revoked and face removal from the UK.

Offences Against Children

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pornographic images of children were removed from the internet following investigations by *(a)* police forces and *(b)* her Department's agencies in each year since 2000. [53482]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not held centrally.

Overseas Students: Visas

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has held with interested parties on tier 4 student visas. [54921]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State has had a number of discussions with various interested parties relating to tier 4, including the Russell Group, and a number of vice-chancellors of prominent universities. I have also had recent discussions about tier 4 with the Russell Group and vice-chancellors, as well as other interested parties including the Association of Colleges, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and various Members of Parliament.

Police

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the *(a)* Gay Police Association, *(b)* National Black Police Association and *(c)* Christian Police Association received from her Department in each year since 2008. [53390]

Nick Herbert: The following table shows the grant funding paid to each of the named staff associations in the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial years.

			£
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Gay Police Association	100,000.00	100,000.00	38,848.50
National Black Police Association	0	0	0
Christian Police Association	0	10,000.00	0

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of *(a)* police community support officers and *(b)* police officers in each police force area were identified as members of each ethnic group in each police force area in the latest period for which figures are available. [53466]

Nick Herbert: Figures relating to 31 March 2010 are shown in the following tables:

Table 1: Police community support officer ethnicity[1] by police force area as at 31 March 2010

						Percentage
Police force	*White*	*Mixed*	*Black or Black British*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Chinese or Other ethnic group*	*Not stated*
Avon and Somerset	95	1	1	1	0	2
Bedfordshire	89	3	3	5	0	0
Cambridgeshire	89	2	1	6	1	0
Cheshire	97	0	1	0	0	1
Cleveland	98	0	0	2	0	0
Cumbria	100	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	96	1	2	2	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	78	1	1	0	0	21
Dorset	98	1	0	0	1	1
Durham	99	1	0	0	0	0
Essex	97	1	1	0	0	1
Gloucestershire	92	2	1	2	2	1
Greater Manchester	93	1	2	4	1	0
Hampshire	99	0	1	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	95	1	1	2	0	1
Humberside	98	1	1	0	0	0
Kent	96	2	0	2	0	0
Lancashire	97	0	0	1	0	1
Leicestershire	88	1	0	11	0	0
Lincolnshire	98	0	1	1	0	0
London, City of	81	4	2	13	0	0
Merseyside	97	2	1	0	0	0
Metropolitan Police	70	4	10	11	4	1
Norfolk	98	1	0	0	1	0
Northamptonshire	94	4	1	1	0	0
Northumbria	99	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	99	0	1	0	0	1
Nottinghamshire	97	1	1	1	0	0
South Yorkshire	95	2	1	2	0	0
Staffordshire	95	1	0	3	0	0
Suffolk	99	1	0	0	0	0
Surrey	95	1	1	3	0	0
Sussex	96	1	0	0	1	1
Thames Valley	94	2	1	3	0	1
Warwickshire	96	1	1	1	0	1
West Mercia	96	0	0	2	1	1

Table 1: Police community support officer ethnicity[1] by police force area as at 31 March 2010

Percentage

Police force	*White*	*Mixed*	*Black or Black British*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Chinese or Other ethnic group*	*Not stated*
West Midlands	87	3	2	8	0	0
West Yorkshire	95	0	1	4	0	0
Wiltshire	98	0	0	1	0	1
Dyfed-Powys	99	0	1	0	0	0
Gwent	98	0	1	1	0	0
North Wales	98	0	0	1	1	0
South Wales	99	0	0	1	0	1

[1] Percentage figures based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Table 2: Police officer ethnicity[1] by police force area as at 31 March 2010

Percentage

Police force	*White*	*Mixed*	*Black or Black British*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Chinese or Other ethnic group*	*Not stated*
Avon and Somerset	98	1	1	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	92	2	1	3	0	2
Cambridgeshire	97	1	0	1	0	1
Cheshire	98	1	0	0	0	1
Cleveland	96	0	0	1	0	2
Cumbria	99	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	97	1	0	2	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	89	0	0	0	0	10
Dorset	99	1	0	0	0	0
Durham	98	1	0	1	0	0
Essex	97	2	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	97	1	0	0	0	1
Greater Manchester	95	2	1	2	0	0
Hampshire	91	1	0	1	0	7
Hertfordshire	96	1	1	2	0	0
Humberside	99	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	97	1	0	1	0	0
Lancashire	88	1	0	2	0	9
Leicestershire	92	2	1	4	0	1
Lincolnshire	99	0	0	0	0	0
London, City of	94	2	2	2	0	0
Merseyside	97	2	0	0	1	0
Metropolitan Police	90	2	3	3	1	0
Norfolk	98	1	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	89	1	2	1	0	7
Northumbria	98	1	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	99	1	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	96	1	1	2	0	0
South Yorkshire	96	1	1	1	0	0
Staffordshire	98	1	0	1	0	0
Suffolk	97	2	0	0	0	1
Surrey	95	1	0	1	0	2
Sussex	97	1	0	0	0	1
Thames Valley	93	2	1	2	0	2
Warwickshire	94	1	0	3	0	1
West Mercia	98	0	0	1	0	0
West Midlands	92	2	1	5	0	0
West Yorkshire	95	1	1	3	0	0
Wiltshire	98	1	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	99	0	0	0	0	0
Gwent	98	1	0	0	0	0
North Wales	99	0	0	0	0	0
South Wales	89	1	0	0	0	9

[1] Percentage figures based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to make a decision on implementation of the recommendations of the *(a)* Hutton and *(b)* Winsor reports in respect of police services; and if she will make a statement. [53748]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has referred those recommendations of Tom Winsor's first report that call for changes in the short-term to remuneration and conditions of service in England and Wales to the appropriate bodies to consider. She has directed the negotiating machinery for police officers to complete their consideration by 26 July 2011 and will consider their recommendations carefully, in line with her statutory obligations.

As the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his Budget statement of 23 March 2011, the Government accept Lord Hutton's recommendations as a basis for consultation. The Government will set out proposals in the autumn that are affordable, sustainable, and fair to both the public sector work force and the taxpayer. The Government recognise that the position of the uniformed services, including the police, will require particularly careful consideration. Any changes to police pensions would be subject to the usual consultation processes with the Police Negotiating Board.

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place for the approval of police forces exchanging undercover police officers with police forces in other countries. [55494]

James Brokenshire: Authorisations under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ("RIPA") may be given for the deployment of covert human intelligence sources such as police undercover officers both inside and outside the UK. Members of foreign law enforcement agencies acting as undercover officers may also be authorised under RIPA in support of domestic and international investigations. Authorisations under RIPA require that covert actions are carried out in a way that is necessary and proportionate with regard to human rights, particularly the right to privacy.

Police: Bureaucracy

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date she last met Jan Berry to discuss recommendations for reducing the burden of administration on police forces. [53757]

Nick Herbert: Jan Berry was appointed as the Independent Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate by the previous Government in October 2008 and her role concluded in October 2010. The current Home Secretary has not met Jan Berry but I have met with her on a number of occasions.

This Government set up a Reducing Bureaucracy Programme Board with key policing partners in October 2010 to take forward the reducing bureaucracy work. We have already scrapped the national requirement for the Stop and Account form and reduced the reporting requirements for Stop and Search. We are also returning certain charging decisions to the police and establishing a more proportionate approach to inspections.

Police: Manpower

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of national police recruitment campaigns in each budgetary category was in each police force area in each of the last five years; and what resources her Department allocated to such campaigning in each such year. [53446]

Nick Herbert: Responsibility for police recruitment passed from the Home Office to the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and individual forces in 2007 and details of the costs of recruitment campaigns to individual forces are not collected centrally.

The last national recruitment campaign took place in 2006 and was therefore funded by the Home Office from the Department's central marketing budget. The details of this are as follows:

2006-07

	Amount spent (£)
PCSO recruitment	3,418,115.75
Police officer recruitment	2,848.00

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications to join the force each police force received in each year since 1997; and how many officers were recruited in each such year. [53513]

Nick Herbert: The requested data on applications have been collected since 2002-03 and where available are given in table 1. The data provided here are management information and as such it is important to note that they are provisional and have not been subjected to the usual quality assurance practices.

The requested data on recruits have been collected since 2002-03 and are given in table 2.

Table 1: Number[1] of formal application forms[2] received by police forces from 2002-03 to 2009-10

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Avon and Somerset	916	446	[3]—	2,121	2,062	[3]—	[3]—	2054
Bedfordshire	1,940	[3]—	635	42	[3]—	456	285	299
Cambridgeshire	1,511	[3]—	[3]—	783	[3]—	21	[3]—	255
Cheshire	4,532	[3]—	779	[3]—	1,666	165	580	425
Cleveland	1,464	[3]—	113	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Cumbria	1,085	767	105	226	243	431	491	[3]—
Derbyshire	2,884	753	113	4	[3]—	1,310	[3]—	[3]—
Devon and Cornwall	3,614	1,203	1,366	1,397	[3]—	463	826	[3]—
Dorset	1,224	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	358	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—

Table 1: Number[1] of formal application forms[2] received by police forces from 2002-03 to 2009-10

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Durham	1,343	[3]—	[3]—	2,019	[3]—	[3]—	403	[3]—
Dyfed-Powys	859	366	[3]—	897	[3]—	[3]—	781	[3]—
Essex	2,282	2,127	571	925	[3]—	1,262	1,437	[3]—
Gloucestershire	1,062	245	795	963	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Greater Manchester	[3]—	3,642	200	[3]—	[3]—	4,972	2,602	1,934
Gwent	1,493	1,005	[3]—	918	931	1,031	[3]—	1,761
Hampshire	5,820	1,349	[3]—	1,949	1,766	1,968	[3]—	[3]—
Hertfordshire	1,992	1,224	333	1,103	679	659	1098	[3]—
Humberside	1,349	1,519	[3]—	996	[3]—	441	[3]—	[3]—
Kent	3,027	[3]—	1,401	1,347	[3]—	2,521	1,272	[3]—
Lancashire	[3]—	1,961	984	2,742	[3]—	4,370	1,832	[3]—
Leicestershire	1,421	1,249	[3]—	295	[3]—	435	640	38
Lincolnshire	1,289	[3]—	284	333	[3]—	1,020	469	976
London, City of	594	449	[3]—	415	[3]—	850	[3]—	[3]—
Merseyside	3,190	1,331	3,137	[3]—	1,729	550	2,232	3,375
Metropolitan Police	[3]—	4,065	1,160	3,444	1,460	5,498	11,566	2,591
Norfolk	1,206	[3]—	674	854	[3]—	[3]—	785	415
Northamptonshire	283	384	451	522	273	749	589	397
Northumbria	3,349	1,074	1,941	1,301	[3]—	2,590	2,615	223
North Wales	2,219	1,234	1,482	705	[3]—	346	568	363
North Yorkshire	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Nottinghamshire	2,770	1,104	1,176	[3]—	445	279	566	331
South Wales	724	2,204	[3]—	1,814	1,102	[3]—	2,895	[3]—
South Yorkshire	1,300	1,235	807	366	721	893	[3]—	733
Staffordshire	2,043	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	351	[3]—
Suffolk	1,352	890	442	1,115	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Surrey	2,345	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	32	785
Sussex	1,051	[3]—	1,190	520	[3]—	936	[3]—	318
Thames Valley	3,907	2,077	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	0	1,938	[3]—
Warwickshire	651	229	572	468	[3]—	[3]—	482	[3]—
West Mercia	3,440	1,959	278	78	[3]—	1,005	924	14
West Midlands	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	3,431	[3]—	3,451	739	299
West Yorkshire	4,087	2,704	2,939	769	1,434	2,149	1,810	[3]—
Wiltshire	1,183	432	499	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—

[1] Provisional management information data collected for planning purposes only. Data have not undergone usual quality assurance practices (including validation with individual police forces) and are therefore supplied for information purposes only.

[2] Does not include informal expressions of interest. Some forces did not send out and receive paper application packs when they could instead receive electronic applications via the
www.policecouldyou.co.uk
website. Where forces have received application packs from other means it is not always possible to separately identify the number of paper application packs received, and in such cases forces have been instructed to return a zero response.

[3] Data not available (or may be zero). Force was not able to supply data at the time of collection.

Table 2: Police officer recruits[1] (FTE)[2] to police forces from 2002-03 to 2009-10

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Avon and Somerset	40	198	93	123	90	153	67	74
Bedfordshire	89	178	106	54	45	79	87	65
Cambridgeshire	76	107	99	104	34	66	144	100
Cheshire	141	153	105	121	107	42	91	76
Cleveland	129	138	83	114	79	43	126	52
Cumbria	63	113	51	55	58	41	74	26
Derbyshire	146	146	64	66	84	129	122	48
Devon and Cornwall	138	131	200	255	98	115	145	80
Dorset	72	86	76	102	64	37	35	43
Durham	21	104	79	71	42	21	37	1
Dyfed-Powys	7	53	35	54	47	48	47	48
Essex	40	225	276	224	306	238	200	248
Gloucestershire	53	98	60	70	81	76	81	0
Greater Manchester	113	978	233	277	362	426	482	214
Gwent	45	78	102	80	69	61	21	42
Hampshire	267	282	204	244	249	204	81	182
Hertfordshire	202	279	155	173	185	105	149	85
Humberside	56	188	126	93	95	95	0	12
Kent	192	290	193	209	233	149	222	145

Table 2: Police officer recruits[1] (FTE)[2] to police forces from 2002-03 to 2009-10

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Lancashire	240	311	148	196	165	182	215	56
Leicestershire	116	245	123	96	85	98	161	31
Lincolnshire	64	44	59	54	66	36	79	15
London, City of	44	52	39	41	30	20	38	49
Merseyside	101	192	389	161	312	200	259	241
Metropolitan Police	2,434	2,971	1,886	1,050	1,249	966	2,010	1,633
Norfolk	71	56	77	55	49	48	180	67
Northamptonshire	45	99	109	115	68	82	90	54
Northumbria	151	197	159	122	87	163	281	149
North Wales	77	66	71	51	44	45	90	49
North Yorkshire	99	82	71	110	85	0	0	96
Nottinghamshire	89	138	138	54	46	47	144	59
South Wales	180	173	118	122	118	54	73	120
South Yorkshire	103	261	205	148	164	92	57	29
Staffordshire	27	123	108	81	95	40	48	42
Suffolk	81	113	37	45	77	15	47	40
Surrey	92	116	130	124	157	121	93	126
Sussex	139	320	229	236	167	221	315	160
Thames Valley	306	479	361	374	219	244	346	297
Warwickshire	57	51	59	69	66	0	16	23
West Mercia	235	88	90	88	110	79	80	53
West Midlands	478	408	476	442	445	497	610	335
West Yorkshire	277	337	566	176	271	352	244	139
Wiltshire	62	120	70	50	28	47	55	18

[1] Recruits included those officers joining as Police Standard Direct Recruits and those who were previously Special Constables. This excludes police officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.

[2] Full Time Equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Police: Redundancy

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in Nottinghamshire have been made redundant in the last three months. [54114]

Nick Herbert: None, as there is no provision in legislation for making police officers redundant.

Police: Retirement

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detectives have left police forces under rule A19 in 2011. [54703]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 9 May 2011]*: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Police: Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which company has been awarded the contract for the proposed biometric vetting scheme for police recruits; [54774]

(2) whether she has discussed with ministerial colleagues any extension of the proposed biometric vetting scheme for police recruits to other public services or public sector employees; [54775]

(3) whether DNA samples, DNA profiles and fingerprints taken from police recruits as part of the proposed biometric vetting scheme will be retained following recruitment; [54776]

(4) whether DNA samples, DNA profiles and fingerprints taken from police recruits as part of the proposed biometric vetting scheme will be stored on *(a)* the national DNA database and *(b)* the police elimination database; [54777]

(5) whether DNA samples, DNA profiles and fingerprints taken from police recruits as part of the proposed biometric vetting scheme will be destroyed or deleted *(a)* within a fixed time period and *(b)* on the individual's departure from the service; [54778]

(6) whether DNA samples, DNA profiles and fingerprints taken from police recruits as part of the proposed biometric vetting scheme are to be collected before or after job offers have been made; [54779]

(7) whether DNA samples, DNA profiles and fingerprints taken as part of the proposed biometric vetting scheme from potential police recruits who are unsuccessful are to be treated as volunteer samples and data for the purposes of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984; [55625]

(8) whether DNA samples, DNA profiles and fingerprints taken from police recruits as part of the proposed biometric vetting scheme are to be used for any further searches following recruitment. [55627]

James Brokenshire: No decision has been taken on any new scheme for biometric vetting for police recruits. The matter will be considered by a technical working party of the Police Advisory Board for England and Wales.

Stop and Search

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stops and searches were conducted in each police force area *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 1,000 population in each year since 1997; and what proportion of total stops and searches in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each police force area resulted in an arrest in each such year. [53517]

Nick Herbert: The requested data are published within the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Police Powers and Procedures'. Current and previous copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House.

Stop and Search: Terrorism

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had their vehicles stopped and searched under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 in each year since 2006; and how many of those were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of (i) a notifiable offence and (ii) a terrorism-related offence in (A) each police force area and (B) England and Wales. [53375]

Nick Herbert: The number of vehicles stopped under section 1 of the said power is published within the Home Office Statistical Bulletin Police Powers and Procedures. Data relating to prosecutions and convictions are published by the Ministry of Justice in its Criminal Statistics publication. It is not possible to identify which prosecutions and convictions were as a result of stop and searches. Current and previous copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had their vehicle stopped and searched under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year since 2005; and how many of those were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of (i) a notifiable offence and (ii) a terrorism-related offence in (A) each police force area and (B) England and Wales. [53395]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Operation of Police Powers under Terrorism Act 2000 and Subsequent Legislation". Current and previous copies of both annual and quarterly updates are available in the Library of the House.

Visas

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Tier 4 visa holders extended their leave to remain by switching in-country to a Tier 2 (General) visa category in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [55601]

Damian Green: Tier 4 of the points based system was introduced on 31 March 2009. Information on the number of Tier 4 visa holders who have switched to a Tier 2 General visa is as follows:

Tier 4 visa holders switching to Tier 2 General in 2009 and 2010

	Number[1]
2009	15
2010	785

[1] Statistical information is provisional and subject to change. It has been derived from local management information and is not provided under National Statistics protocols.

Visas: Finance

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the cost of visas. [55455]

Damian Green: During the last three months the UK Border Agency has received eight representations regarding the costs of visas. These consisted of four MP letters on behalf of their constituents, two Treat Official letters and two parliamentary questions.

JUSTICE

Career Breaks

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department and its agencies have taken career breaks of *(a)* three to six months, *(b)* six to 12 months, *(c)* one to two years, *(d)* two to three years and *(e)* more than three years in each of the last three years; and how many staff were on a career break on the latest date for which figures are available. [55551]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: No central records are held by the Ministry on the number of staff on career breaks for specific periods of time. To obtain this information would require an examination of all staff personal files at a disproportionate cost. However, the Ministry does hold records of the number of staff on career breaks on specific dates. For the end of the last three financial years they were as follows:

As at 31 March each year	*Number*
2009	[1]655
2010	[1]587
2011	[1]496

[1] The Department's total full-time equivalent staff numbers for these three dates were 76,470; 75,010 and 74,820 respectively.

Charter of Fundamental Rights: EU

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government was represented at the Ninth Meeting of the National Liaison Officers held by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in April 2011. [55535]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Yes. A Ministry of Justice official represented the UK Government at the meeting.

Civil Proceedings: Legal Costs

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to introduce legislation to implement his policy proposals for reform of civil litigation. [55161]

Mr Djanogly: "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response" was published on 29 March 2011, setting out the way forward on the proposals following full consultation.

As indicated in the response, changes to the CFA regime requiring primary legislation will follow as soon as parliamentary time allows. Other changes will require amendments to the Civil Procedure Rules or other secondary legislation. Further consultation will follow in due course, as appropriate. It is envisaged that the reforms will be implemented together, once the legislation is enacted, aside from the reversal of Carver *v.* BAA and increases to recoverable fees for litigants in person which can be taken forward independently more swiftly.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the representations made by defendant insurance companies in response to Lord Justice Jackson's review of civil litigation costs. [55162]

Mr Djanogly: Lord Justice Jackson's year-long review of civil litigation funding and costs was an independent review. Representations made to Lord Justice Jackson were referred to in his "Review of Civil Litigation Costs: Final Report", which was published in January 2010. The annexes to his final report include lists of submissions received during his review and of meetings, seminars and conferences attended.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department have received from defendant insurance companies since the publication of Lord Justice Jackson's review of civil litigation costs. [55163]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent South (Robert Flello) on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 139W.

I met with the Association of British Insurers (ABI) on 29 July. During the consultation period for Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations, I hosted three roundtable discussions with interested parties. The first, on 2 December 2010 aimed to include parties on all sides of the debate; claimant and defendant solicitors, insurers, after the event (ATE) insurers and other interested parties. I then held meetings with a group of claimant practitioners on 18 January 2011, and defendant practitioners, including insurers and the ABI on 19 January 2011.

The Secretary of State and I have regular meetings with representative bodies, covering a range of issues. The Secretary of State has not held any meetings with insurers or claimant solicitors specifically to discuss the proposed changes to civil litigation funding and costs.

The Department has received various submissions from defendant insurance companies in relation to the consultation "Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations".

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects of his proposed reform of civil litigation costs on people who have sustained long-term disabilities necessitating significant on-going care. [55260]

Mr Djanogly: "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jacksons Recommendations: The Government Response" was published on 29 March 2011, setting out the way forward on the proposals following full consultation. An updated impact assessment was published alongside this response.

Criminal Injuries Compensation: Public Consultation

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to hold a public consultation as part of the review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. [55941]

Mr Blunt: The Government intend to make an announcement before the summer recess.

Domestic Violence: Fixed Penalties

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many penalty notices for disorder have been issued for wasting police time in cases where the accused had previously made an allegation of domestic violence. [55831]

Mr Blunt: In 2009, there were 3,109 penalty notices for disorders issued to persons aged 16 and over for the offence of wasting police time in England and Wales. Data held centrally do not include information about the circumstances behind each case. It is therefore not possible to identify offences where the accused had previously made an allegation of domestic violence.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Human Rights Act 1988

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will instruct his legal representatives to intervene on one or more cases in respect of recent judgments in terms of the balance between articles 8 and 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights to take the case to the Supreme Court for a ruling on the interpretation of section 12 of the Human Rights Act 1998. [55629]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government have no plans to intervene in any cases concerning the interpretation of section 12 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Legal Aid

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people resident in *(a)* Sunderland and *(b)* the North East received legal aid in each of the last five years. [55468]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is currently collating data relating to Sunderland and the North East. I will write to the hon. Member once the information has been verified and place a copy in the Library of the House.

Prison Sentences

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many serving prisoners have been in prison for longer than their tariff length; and in which prisons those prisoners are located; [55425]

(2) for what length of time in addition to the length of their tariff each prisoner serving a sentence in excess of their tariff length has been in custody. [55427]

Mr Blunt: The tariff is the minimum term that a life or other indeterminate sentence prisoner must serve in custody before becoming eligible for consideration for release by the Parole Board.

As at 17 November 2010, there were 6,316 offenders in custody being held beyond their tariff expiry date. Table 1 shows a breakdown of this total by prison establishment. For a small number of offenders, the current prison establishment was not recorded on the data held centrally. Additionally, some offenders are held in secure hospitals and other secure accommodation.

Table 2 shows a distribution of the time served beyond tariff expiry date as at 17 November 2010. These figures include all offenders being held in prison and for whom the prison establishment was recorded centrally; they exclude those held in other secure custody or where prison establishment was not recorded on the data held centrally.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table 1: Lifers and IPPs in custody beyond their tariff expiry date as at 17 November 2010, by establishment

Establishment	*Number*
Acklington	103
Albany	131
Altcourse	20
Ashfield	3
Ashwell	25
Askham Grange	15
Aylesbury	15
Bedford	1
Belmarsh	5
Birmingham	15
Blantyre House	35
Blundeston	65
Brinsford	2
Bristol	7
Brixton	3
Bronzefield	5
Buckley Hall	42
Bullingdon	64
Bure	88
Camp Hill	40
Cardiff	31
Castington	5
Channings Wood	104
Chelmsford	7
Coldingley	65
Dartmoor	68
Deerbolt	2
Doncaster	7
Dorchester	2
Dovegate	101
Downview	6
Drake Hall	3
Durham	7
East Sutton Park	5
Eastwood Park	2
Erlestoke	77
Everthorpe	32
Exeter	1
Featherstone	55
Ford	47
Forest Bank	6
Foston Hall	9
Frankland	172
Full Sutton	113
Garth	123
Gartree	105
Gloucester	8
Grendon/Spring Hill	121
Guys Marsh	54
Haverigg	27
Hewell	46
High Down	11
Highpoint	67
Hollesley Bay	52
Holloway	10
Holme House	24
Hull	34
Huntercombe	4
Kennet	2
Kingston (Portsmouth)	55
Kirkham	110
Kirklevington Grange	43
Lancaster	15
Lancaster Farms	10
Latchmere House	12
Leeds	7
Lewes	13
Leyhill	107
Lincoln	21
Lindholme	80
Littlehey	98
Liverpool	19
Long Lartin	76
Low Newton	17
Lowdham Grange	48
Maidstone	64
Manchester	41
Moorland Closed	32
Moorland Open	31
Mount (The)	70
New Hall	11
North Sea Camp	107
Norwich	23
Nottingham	15
Onley	24
Parc	18
Parkhurst	62
Pentonville	10
Peterborough Female	6
Peterborough Male	9
Portland	2
Preston	12
Ranby	84
Reading	2

Table 1: Lifers and IPPs in custody beyond their tariff expiry date as at 17 November 2010, by establishment

Table 1: Lifers and IPPs in custody beyond their tariff expiry date as at 17 November 2010, by establishment

Establishment	*Number*
Risley	195
Rochester	2
Rye Hill	61
Send	27
Sheppey Cluster (Elmley)	47
Sheppey Cluster (Standford Hill)	27
Sheppey Cluster (Swaleside)	155
Shepton Mallet	114
Shrewsbury	4
Stafford	44
Stocken	126
Stoke Heath	3
Styal	11
Sudbury	117
Swaleside	1
Swansea	2
Swinfen Hall	104
Thorn Cross	1
Usk/Prescoed	91
Verne (The)	44
Wakefield	191
Wandsworth	32
Warren Hill	1
Wayland	88
Wealstun	20
Wellingborough	78
Wetherby	2
Whatton	244
Whitemoor	64
Winchester	4
Wolds	73
Woodhill	13
Wormwood Scrubs	8
Wymott	98
Establishment not centrally recorded/other secure custody	571
Total	6,316

Table 2: Lifers and IPPs in prison beyond their tariff expiry date as at 17 November 2010, by length of time served past tariff

	Number
Less than 6 months	695
6 months to less than 1 years	643
1 year to less than 2 years	1,288
2 years to less than 3 years	975
3 years to less than 5 years	850
5 years to less than 10 years	774
10 years+	520
Total	5,745

Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the provisions of Prison Service Instruction 06/2011 on Prisoner Communications—Correspondence, how many prisoners have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* disciplined for contributing (i) directly or (ii) via a third party to (A) a social networking site or (B) a media publication in each of the last three years. [55545]

Mr Blunt: Any disciplinary action taken against prisoners for contributing directly or indirectly to social networking sites is dealt with and recorded locally at the prison and is not collected centrally. In order to provide these details individual prisoner's records would need to be checked and the information could be only provided at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners may write to any person or organisation, including media publications, within the rules in Prison Service Instruction 06/2011 Prisoner Communications Correspondence and Prison Service Instruction 37/2010 Prisoner's Access to the Media. A prisoner may have an article published if it conforms to guidance contained in those policies but no records are kept centrally of disciplinary action where breaches of the rules have occurred.

Prisoners' Release

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners have been released under home detention curfew in error in each year that figures are available; [55538]

(2) how many prisoners have been released early due to the incorrect calculation of their *(a)* home detention curfew and *(b)* early removal scheme eligibility dates. [55539]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of prisoners released on home detention curfew in error, by financial year. These figures cover the period between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2011. There are approximately 12,000 prisoners released on home detention curfew each year and those released in error make up a tiny proportion of these releases.

Table 1: Prisoners released in error on home detention curfew, by financial year

	Number
2005-06	1
2006-07	2
2007-08	1
2008-09	1
2009-10	6
2010-11	1

The following table shows the number of prisoners released in error on home detention curfew and early removal scheme as the result of a calculation error. These figures cover the period between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2011.

Table 2: Number of prisoners released early due to incorrect calculation of (a) home detention curfew and (b) early removal scheme, by financial year

	Home detention curfew	*Early removal scheme*
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	0	0
2007-08	0	0
2008-09	1	0
2009-10	2	0
2010-11	0	0

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

The number of releases in error may change should further incidents be reported.

The number of releases in error from prisons generally is very small. All incidents are subject to investigation. The majority of prisoners released in error are returned to custody quickly. They are usually unaware of the error and make no attempt to evade the police.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners he estimates will have their release dates recalculated following the issuing of Prison Service Instruction 55/2010 on Sentence Calculation and HDC/ERS Eligibility Dates - Multiple Sentences Comprising Mixtures of the 1991 Act and the 2003 Act Release Provisions; whether additional costs to the public purse will be incurred as a result of any recalculated sentences; and if he will make a statement. [55542]

Mr Blunt: Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 55/2010 gave effect to a June 2010 Supreme Court judgment that fundamentally changed how the legislation must be applied to prisoners with multiple sentences which are subject to a mixture of release provisions (i.e. under the Criminal Justice Act 1991 and Criminal Justice Act 2003). The result has been that some prisoners have been notified of earlier Home Detention Curfew (HDC) and Early Removal Scheme (ERS) eligibility dates, while the impact on others has been later sentence and licence expiry dates. Prisons have reported that the dates for 5,651 prisoners have had to be recalculated. We have estimated that an additional 80 prison places may be required in the longer term as a direct result of implementing the judgment. These can be accommodated within planned provision. There will be some additional costs in extending the supervision period of some offenders but these are expected to be minimal. These recalculations have been necessary in order for the sentences of affected prisoners to remain lawful and in line with the Supreme Court judgment.

Prisoners: Correspondence

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the cost to the public purse was of postage on behalf of prisoners sending *(a)* statutory letters and *(b)* special letters in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was of the postage of letters sent overseas in each such year; [55543]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the implementation of Prison Service Instruction 06/2011 on Prisoner Communications - Correspondence in each of the next three years. [55546]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service Agency's accounting system does not distinguish details or have separate account codes for expenditure details on postage on behalf of prisoners sending statutory letters, special letters or postage letters sent overseas.

Prison Service Instruction 06/2011 did not change the allowances or entitlements for prisoners to send or receive letters and therefore the implementation of the new instruction is cost neutral.

Prisoners: Equality

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of prisoners with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010 for each type of protected characteristic in the latest period for which figures are available. [55530]

Mr Blunt: Applying the definitions within the Equality Act 2010, every prisoner has the protected characteristics of age, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. I am unable to estimate the number and proportion of prisoners with any of the remaining protected characteristics as this information is not collected centrally.

A breakdown of the prison population by age, race, religion or belief, and sex can be found in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics. The most recent annual bulletin can be downloaded from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/omcs-2009-complete-210710a.pdf

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners *(a)* are held in prison and *(b)* were so held in May 2010; and what steps he is taking to reduce the number of such prisoners. [55782]

Mr Blunt: Prison population statistics are published quarterly. On 31 March 2010, the foreign national prisoner population stood at 11,367. That figure had declined to 10,745 on 31 March 2011.

The Ministry of Justice and Home Office are working together to reduce the number of foreign nationals who are in our prisons.

This includes progression of plans described in the Ministry of Justice Green Paper which will allow for conditional cautions to be available as an alternative to prosecution for some foreign national offenders with the condition being that the individual leaves the UK (we are already piloting this approach with simple cautions) and plans to remove indeterminately sentenced/lifer FNPs at the point of expiry of their tariff.

A considerable amount of work aimed at reducing the FNP population is already under way. For example, we continue to operate an early removal scheme under which FNPs serving a determinate sentence can be considered for deportation up to 270 days before they would otherwise be eligible for release.

In addition, we are building on existing prisoner transfer agreements, which enable some foreign national prisoners to serve their sentence in their country of origin. The EU framework decision on prisoner transfer is due to enter into force from December, which will provide for a steady increase in the number of EU nationals transferred to their own country to serve their sentences.

The Ministry of Justice will continue to work with the Home Office to develop work to manage down overall FNP numbers and, where possible, divert foreign national offenders from the UK and our prison system.

Prisons

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of providing activities in prisons in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse was of the implementation of Prison Service Instruction 38/2010 on activities in prisons. [55548]

Mr Blunt: Prisons deliver a wide and diverse range of activities. The cost of activities is primarily met through establishment baseline funding and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examining expenditure locally in each establishment, disaggregating and then collating the costs. Prison Service Instruction 38/2010 on activities in prison provided updated instructions to governors on appropriate activities for prisoners. It did not mandate any specific activities or associated costs.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff working in prisons have been *(a)* investigated on suspicion of, *(b)* disciplined for and *(c)* dismissed for providing unauthorised items to prisoners in each of the last five years. [55550]

Mr Blunt: Central information covering formal staff disciplinary proceedings is recorded according to the type of misconduct. There is no specific category for 'providing unauthorised items to prisoners' and therefore the information requested at *(a)* and *(b)* is not held centrally. It could be obtained by manually examining individual records only at a disproportionate cost.

Records, held since January 2008, show that 32 directly employed and 66 non-directly employed staff working in prisons have been dismissed for offences relating to the conveying unauthorised items in to prisons up to 31 March 2011. Available data do not cover whether such items are actually provided to prisoners. The following table provides a yearly breakdown;

Calendar year	*Dismissals of prison staff linked to the conveying unauthorised items*	*Exclusions of non directly employed prison staff linked to the conveying of unauthorised items*
2008-09	14	22
2009-10	7	23
2010-11	10	13
2011-12	[1]1	[1]8

[1] To 11 May

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems held by the Corruption Prevention Unit, which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. Non directly employed prison staff are employed to work in prisons through a third party such as a local education provider, healthcare trust or other voluntary organisations. These individuals are covered by the NOMS corruption prevention strategy.

Prisons: Drugs

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers were reprimanded for bringing prohibited substances into prison in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010. [55489]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only by contacting individual prison establishments and by reviewing individual employee personal files at a disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff working in prisons have undergone treatment for substance abuse in each of the last three years; and how many staff were undergoing treatment for substance abuse on the latest date for which figures are available. [55549]

Mr Blunt: Data on the numbers of any staff working in prisons who may have undergone treatment for substance abuse in the last three years are not available to the National Offender Management Service, in any form.

Substance abuse by staff is not compatible with working in prisons and where this is suspected or identified, appropriate action is taken. Any treatment provided to individual staff members would be through self-referral in the community (either via the employee's own GP or privately). Medical confidentiality applies to personal sensitive data relating to treatment of this sort and as such would remain confidential to the individual member of staff and their healthcare providers and would not be available to NOMS.

Prisons: Equality

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost is of implementing Prison Service instruction 32/2011 on ensuring equality in 2011-12. [55529]

Mr Blunt: There should be no extra costs in implementing Prison Service Instruction 32/2011 on ensuring equality. The instruction contains fewer mandatory actions and prescribes less process than the orders and instructions that it replaces. It offers prison establishments the flexibility to allocate resources to equality issues in accordance with local need.

Prisons: Security

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many security breaches occurred in each prison in each of the last five years. [55557]

Mr Blunt: NOMS collects data on security breaches which are defined as any incident involving visitors or outsiders where the security or control of the establishment has been breached, or there has been an attempt to do so. The following table provides details of breaches and attempted breaches of security reported on the incident reporting system from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2011. Figures exclude other specific categories of security-related incident such as drug finds, disorder-related incidents, escapes, key lock incidents and finds of mobile phones.

Table 1: Breaches and attempted breaches of security or control by visitors or outsiders, by financial year, from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2011

Prison name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Acklington	—	1	—	—	—
Ashfield	—	—	—	1	—
Ashwell	—	1	—	—	—
Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	1
Aylesbury	2	1	—	—	1
Belmarsh	—	—	—	1	—
Blundeston	2	—	—	1	—
Brinsford	—	1	—	—	—
Bristol	3	—	—	—	—
Brixton	4	—	—	3	—
Bronzefield	1	2	—	—	2
Buckley Hall	2	—	1	—	—
Bullingdon	—	1	1	1	1
Bullwood Hall	—	—	1	—	—
Cardiff	1	—	—	—	1
Chelmsford	—	2	—	—	—
Coldingley	3	—	—	—	—
Cookham Wood	—	—	—	1	—
Doncaster	—	1	—	—	—
Drake Hall	—	1	1	—	—
Durham	1	2	1	1	—
Edmunds Hill	—	—	—	1	—
Erlestoke	2	1	—	—	—
Everthorpe	1	1	—	—	—
Exeter	—	1	—	1	—
Feltham	1	—	—	—	—
Ford	1	—	2	—	2
Forest Bank	1	—	—	—	—
Foston Hall	—	—	—	1	—
Frankland	—	1	—	—	—
Full Sutton	1	—	—	—	—
Garth	—	—	—	1	—
Gloucester	4	—	1	—	—
Grendon	—	1	6	1	—
Guys Marsh	1	1	—	—	1
Haslar	—	—	1	1	—
Haverigg	1	2	—	—	—
High Down	—	—	3	—	—
Highpoint	—	2	2	—	1
Hindley	—	3	—	1	—
Hollesley Bay	—	—	1	—	—
Hull	1	—	—	—	—
Kirkham	1	1	—	—	—
Latchmere House	—	1	—	—	—
Leeds	1	1	—	—	—
Lewes	—	1	1	—	—
Leyhill	4	1	—	2	—
Lincoln	1	—	1	—	1
Littlehey	—	—	—	—	1
Liverpool	—	—	—	1	—
Lowdham Grange	—	—	—	—	1
Manchester	—	1	—	5	1
Mount	1	—	—	—	—
New Hall	1	—	—	—	—
Nottingham	—	—	2	2	—
Onley	1	—	1	—	—
Parc	4	8	7	5	—
Pentonville	4	—	1	1	—
Peterborough	20	1	—	—	1
Ranby	—	—	—	1	2
Reading	—	—	1	—	—

Table 1: Breaches and attempted breaches of security or control by visitors or outsiders, by financial year, from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2011

Prison name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Risley	1	—	—	—	—
Rochester	—	—	1	—	—
Rye Hill	—	—	—	—	1
Send	—	—	—	—	1
Shrewsbury	—	—	—	—	1
Stafford	—	1	1	—	—
Standford Hill	—	1	—	1	—
Stoke Heath	1	1	—	—	—
Styal	—	—	—	1	—
Sudbury	2	2	—	—	—
Thorn Cross	—	4	5	1	4
Usk\Prescoed	—	—	1	1	1
Wakefield	1	1	—	—	1
Wandsworth	—	1	—	—	—
Wealstun	—	—	1	—	—
Wellingborough	2	—	—	—	—
Woodhill	—	1	—	1	—
Wormwood Scrubs	1	—	2	4	1
Wymott	1	—	—	1	—

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place for the collection by his Department of reports of prison establishments which have *(a)* persistent breaches of security and *(b)* persistent areas of concern arising from the testing of security processes, procedures and equipment. [55560]

Mr Blunt: Governors of individual prisons have the primary responsibility for ensuring that security standards are maintained. This is monitored in a variety of ways including local audit and testing and formal audit of security procedures by the Agency's auditors.

Reports of serious failures of security are required to be reported to the centre with the most serious failures reported immediately by telephone. Less serious failures are logged locally and will be discussed routinely with the governor's manager and at regular security committee meetings held within each prison. The results of formal security audit reports are published internally and a follow up action plan must be produced by the prison to remedy any deficiencies. High priority recommendations are always followed up with individual prisons and a quarterly report, listing progress on implementation of recommendations, together with any patterns in security failures, is distributed to senior management. A NOMS Audit Committee, chaired by a non-executive director, will consider any underlying patterns, issues and specific areas of concern connected with both security and general matters.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* shotgun cartridges, *(b)* mobile phones, *(c)* replica firearms, *(d)* blank rounds, *(e)* flick knives, *(f)* SIM cards, *(g)* mobile phone chargers, *(h)* cameras and *(i)* drugs were kept in each prison establishment for the purposes of testing or training in the last year for which figures are available; [55562]

(2) how many *(a)* shotgun cartridges, *(b)* mobile phones, *(c)* replica firearms, *(d)* blank rounds, *(e)* flick knives, *(f)* SIM cards, *(g)* mobile phone chargers, *(h)* cameras and *(i)* drugs used as training aids in prisons and designated to be stored in the security department or Governor's safe have been reported (i) missing, (ii) stolen or (iii) otherwise unaccountable at each prison establishment in each of the last five years. [55561]

Mr Blunt: Data relating to the number of items held in prisons for training or testing purposes are not held centrally. In order to provide this information, it would be necessary to contact each prison individually, which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The loss or theft of official items, including bladed items, mobile phones, chargers and SIM cards is reported under the miscellaneous category on the Prison Service Incident Reporting System. The loss or theft of drugs used for training aids are recorded under a separate drugs category. Any incident relating to firearms and ammunition, including the loss or theft of items used for training would be held under a separate firearms category.

These incidents are held in a format that cannot readily be interrogated electronically. To provide the information requested would involve the manual inspection of more than 79,000 incident records for the five financial years involved which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Standards

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners he estimates are affected by bedding standards in respect of fire retardancy set out in Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 22/2011; and what the cost to the public purse was of complying with the requirements of PSI 22/2011 in the latest year for which figures are available. [55552]

Mr Blunt: The fire retardancy standards set out in Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 22/2011 apply to all bedding and furnishings used by prisoners.

PSI 22/2011 has had no impact on the standard or cost of bedding officially issued to prisoners as these items already meet the fire retardancy standards specified.

The main purpose of the PSI is to introduce equivalent standards for bedding and furnishing items purchased by some prisoners using their own funds. Therefore there is no additional cost to the public purse.

Public Expenditure

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department plans to cease to fund any of its functions over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [55183]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry's function is to deliver a justice system that will punish the guilty, protect our liberties and the independence of the judiciary, and reduce the rate of reoffending by offenders. The Ministry will deliver these objectives throughout the period of the spending review.

I have developed plans that will enable the Ministry of Justice to deliver savings across the spending review period while continuing to deliver the Ministry's services. These savings are a combination of administrative efficiencies, front-line efficiencies and policy reforms.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of affordable housing his Department uses. [55202]

Grant Shapps: The definition of affordable housing for planning purposes is set out in annex B of planning policy statement 3: Planning for Housing. My Department has recently consulted on a technical change to annex B of planning policy statement 3. The consultation finished on 11 April and we intend to publish the Government response shortly.

Affordable Housing: Disability

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding from the public purse he allocated to the HOLD scheme in the last 12 months; [55261]

(2) if he will estimate the number of completions under the HOLD scheme in *(a)* London and *(b)* the London borough of Newham in the next 12 months. [55264]

Grant Shapps: Home Ownership for people with Long-Term Disabilities (HOLD) helps people whose housing needs cannot be met through the Government's mainstream new build affordable home ownership programme, due to the need to live in a specific location. The scheme enables them to select a property on the open market suitable to their needs, and purchase on shared ownership terms with a housing association.

My Department, through the Homes and Communities Agency, provides capital funding to housing providers to help them buy properties under HOLD. Registered housing providers can bid for funding from the Affordable Homes programme.

In 2010-11, the Homes and Communities Agency provided £5.7 million to registered providers for the HOLD scheme.

HOLD is a demand-led scheme and therefore we have not made an assessment of the number of likely completions in London or the London borough of Newham. As announced in the spending review, we are investing £4.5 billion to deliver 150,000 affordable homes between 2011-12 to 2014-15. This will include support for the provision of shared ownership and the HOLD scheme where this has the support of the local authority.

Council Tax Benefits

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the operation of the localised council tax benefit. [55773]

Robert Neill: The Government are committed to retaining council tax support for the most vulnerable in society and will be taking forward plans for councils to develop local rebate schemes. The detail of these plans will be developed following full consultation on the new system for local council tax rebate schemes in England, which will be undertaken in due course, led by my Department.

This reform will create stronger incentives for councils to get people back into work and so support the positive work incentives that will be introduced through the Government's plans on universal credit. Combined with other incentives—such as the New Homes Bonus and our proposals for the local retention of business rates—these changes will give councils a greater stake in the economic future of their local area, so supporting the Government's wider agenda to enable stronger, balanced economic growth across the country.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what equality impact assessment he plans to undertake on his proposed changes to council tax benefit. [55774]

Robert Neill: In the development of the plans for local rebate schemes in England, the Department will comply fully with the relevant requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and is committed to retaining council tax support for the most vulnerable in society.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to cease to fund any of its functions over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [55192]

Robert Neill: In terms of my Department's plans to cease any of its functions, four of the Department's arm's length bodies have already been closed and a programme of reform is in place which will see another 12 either closed or their functions transferred by 2012.

For details on estimated savings costs attached to this I refer the hon. Member to the departmental press notice of 16 March 2011, which can be found at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1865652

Most of the functions of the Government offices for the regions have been discontinued: a limited number of residual functions have been transferred to Departments, including this Department.

Housing: Learning Disability

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to provide new housing stock for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [55294]

Andrew Stunell: We are investing £4.5 billion over the next four years to deliver up to 150,000 new affordable homes in England. We are giving housing associations much more flexibility on rents and use of assets, so our aspiration is to deliver as many homes as possible through our investment and reforms.

As part of the Affordable Homes Programme, the Homes and Communities Agency is positively encouraging new supply of supported housing which would include housing for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. They will focus on ensuring that local authorities are able to shape the Affordable Homes Programme to respond to the housing needs of their communities. Affordable housing for vulnerable people can also be met through a variety of methods including floating support services which provides housing-related support to vulnerable adults to enable them to maintain their independence in their own home.

Housing: Standards

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to review the operational and enforcement guidance for the housing, health and safety rating system in the light of the recent decision by the Residential Property Service Tribunal in the case of Mr A H Kassim. [54540]

Andrew Stunell: There are no plans to review the operational and enforcement guidance for the Housing Health and Safety Rating System in light of the recent decision by the Residential Property Tribunal in the case of Mr A H Kassim.

The Residential Property Tribunal in the case of Mr A H Kassim concluded that there is no requirement under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System guidance that space heating should be affordable.

It is the view of the Department that the relative cost of operating a heating system is relevant to a Housing Health and Safety Rating System assessment. The operating guidance, page 27, sets this out under the heading 'Thermal Efficiency':

> The dwelling should be provided with adequate thermal insulation and a suitable and effective means of space heating so that the space can be economically maintained at reasonable temperatures.

Residential Property Tribunal cases are independent of the Department for Communities and Local Government and as the decision was based on the specific circumstances of the case it does not create a binding legal precedent.

Local Government

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to announce the conclusions of his review of statutory duties placed on local government. [55584]

Robert Neill: The invitation to respond has now closed and we have received a high volume of responses—over 5,500. The review is as much about ensuring vital duties are retained as it is about removing unnecessary burdens.

The next step will be for the Department to analyse and review the representations. Any future work on whether to remove duties or associated guidance that only serve to create overly bureaucratic burdens on councils will be a separate process, and we will consult further where necessary.

We will continue to keep the House informed of progress.

Regional Planning and Development

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department is providing to private sector organisations on the abolition of regional spatial strategies. [50370]

Greg Clark: The Government set out information on the implications of their intention to abolish regional strategies in the Chief Planner's letter of 10 November 2010 to local authorities, and further in a press release issued on 7 February 2011. Both documents are available on the Department's website and private sector organisations can have regard to them. These documents make clear that pending abolition of regional strategies all planning decisions must be made in accordance with the "development plan", including regional strategies, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Government's intention to abolish regional strategies is a material consideration.

Rented Housing: Private Sector

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what data his Department collects on the activities of unscrupulous landlords in the private rented sector. [55407]

Andrew Stunell: The English Housing Survey and the linked Private Landlords Survey both contain extensive data about privately rented housing stock and private landlords. The most recent iterations of both surveys are due to be published in the summer.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has any plans to bring forward legislation to tackle unscrupulous landlords. [55474]

Andrew Stunell: The current legislative framework already contains robust measures by which tenants can be protected from landlord abuses. The Government keeps the relevant legislation under constant review but has no plans for any immediate changes.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the Planning Inspectorate held a Gypsy and Traveller workshop in November 2009; who attended the workshop; what matters were discussed at the workshop; and what the outcomes were. [55253]

Robert Neill: Under the last Administration as part of a two day event, the Planning Inspectorate held a Gypsy and Traveller appeals workshop on Friday 13 November 2009. The aim of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for dialogue between the principal stakeholders engaged in Gypsy and Traveller appeals, to explore ways in which current appeal practice might be improved, for example, to help the smoother running of appeals, as Gypsy and Traveller casework tends to be more complex and can often result in delays and events overrunning. The workshop also addressed current issues and different perspectives. The discussions specifically did not address individual cases nor current or forthcoming appeals, being restricted to generic matters.

The matters discussed through round table discussions, were Gypsy status and consistency on application and acceptance of Gypsy status; Development Plan Matters; Procedural Matters and Personal Circumstances (eg confidentiality and sensitivity of personal data and educational and health needs).

The workshop was attended by around 50 inspectors and staff from the Planning Inspectorate and representatives from parties involved in appeals, namely a number of planning consultancies: (Anderson Planning and Dev Ltd, Green Planning Solutions, Heine Planning Consultancy, Philip Brown Associates), various legal chambers (Garden Court Chambers, 10 King's Bench Chambers, 2-3 Gray's Inn Square, Radcliffe Chambers, 1 Pump Court Chambers, Francis Taylor Buildings), a number of local authorities (Basildon, Brentwood, Bromley, Central Bedfordshire, Maidstone, Mendip, Sevenoaks, South Gloucestershire, South Somerset, and Wychavon) and DCLG. Participants were invited based on the amount of relevant casework they were involved in.

Since the workshop the Planning Inspectorate has made some minor procedural amendments, for example changes to durations, for gypsy and traveller cases. It has also trialled the use of a pre-inquiry or hearing note in some cases, but this has not been limited to just Gypsy and Traveller casework.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* workshops and *(b)* meetings were held by the Planning Inspectorate with representatives of Gypsy and Traveller groups in each of the last five years; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each document associated with such workshops and meetings. [55254]

Robert Neill: The Planning Inspectorate has a record of two events involving representatives of the Gypsy and Traveller community within the last five years. Both took place under the last Administration.

On 12 November 2009, the Planning Inspectorate held a training event for inspectors specialising in Gypsy and Traveller casework. As part of the training, external stakeholders were invited to deliver presentations to the inspectors. These speakers included Siobhan Spencer, from the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group, who delivered a presentation on Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group, Gypsy culture and planning issues for Gypsy groups and answered questions from inspectors. A copy of this presentation has been placed in the Library of the House.

The Planning Inspectorate's Enforcement Procedural staff also met with Matthew Green of Green Planning Solutions on 24 February 2009 to discuss general planning, programming and procedural matters on cases as well as changes arising from the Planning Act 2008. No notes were made of this meeting.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what advice he received in advance of deciding not to proceed with option 2 of the planning for Traveller sites consultation; [55255]

(2) with reference to the publication of his planning for Traveller sites consultation, if he will consider the merits of withdrawing planning circulars 01/2006 and 04/2007 and *(a)* not replacing them and *(b)* incorporating policies for Traveller and Gypsy planning into general planning guidance. [55256]

Robert Neill: The Government recently published a consultation on their proposed planning policy for Traveller sites.

As Government do routinely with all policy development, we sought advice from officials and lawyers and considered views from a range of parties while writing our new planning policy. As this is a consultation, hon. Members are welcome to submit their views on these issues including the merits or demerits of the various options.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions his Department had with *(a)* the Equalities and Human Rights Commission and *(b)* representatives from Gypsy and Traveller groups in advance of the publication of the planning for Traveller sites consultation. [55257]

Robert Neill: As is routinely the case with all policy development, the Department has had discussions with people with an interest in its policy matters. This has included speaking to a range of representatives of Traveller groups. The Department also has regular meetings with the Equalities and Human Rights Commission on a variety of matters and these have included discussion of Traveller site provision, planning policy and planning enforcement in relation to Traveller sites and poor social outcomes for Travellers.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning appeals involving Gypsy and Traveller sites have been *(a)* upheld and *(b)* refused by the Planning Inspectorate in each of the last five years. [55258]

Robert Neill: The total number of planning appeals, the number upheld and dismissed for each of the last five calendar years is detailed as follows.

Calendar year	*Total decisions*	*Allowed*	*Percentage*	*Dismissed*	*Percentage*
2006	106	71	67	35	33
2007	131	84	64	47	36
2008	100	52	52	48	48
2009	128	71	55	57	45
2010	84	51	61	32	39

HEALTH

Cancer: Drugs

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to improve access to drugs subject to National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence funding for cancer patients in the NHS. [55246]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trusts are legally obliged to fund drugs and treatments recommended in National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence technology appraisal guidance, within three months of guidance being published, unless the requirement is waived in a specific case.

We made an additional £50 million available to strategic health authorities in 2010-11 which has already helped over 2,000 patients to access the cancer drugs their clinicians recommended. In addition, we launched the Cancer Drugs Fund in April 2011, which makes £200 million available per year for the next three years to help thousands more cancer patients access the drugs their clinicians believe will help them.

Care Homes

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support and advice his Department gives to people who wish to plan for self-funded care in later life; and if he will make a statement. [55453]

Paul Burstow: Local authorities have a duty to provide a needs assessment for everyone who requests one—whether supported by a council or their own funds—and, as part of this process, to sign-post them to the information and advice they need.

The Government recognise that more can be done to help self-funders plan and prepare for the care costs that they may face in later life. We have set up the Commission on Funding of Care and Support and, in its terms of reference, have asked that it provides recommendations on 'how people could choose to protect their assets, especially their homes, against the cost of care'.

We have asked the commission to report in July 2011, and will respond to its recommendations in a White Paper by the end of the year.

Clostridium Difficile

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients contracted *C. difficile* while in hospital in Havering in the last five years. [55309]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not collected in the format requested.

The figures presented are the 'trust apportioned number' referring to infections that are presumed to be to be acquired in that trust during that visit. Data apportioned to trust are only available from 2007 onwards for *Clostridium difficile* infection episodes.

Cases are trust apportioned if the location of the patient when the specimen was taken was reported as an acute hospital 'in-patient', 'day patient' or 'Emergency assessment patient' and the specimen date was on, or after, the fourth day of the admission where day of admission is equal to day one.

These data only show the number of reported *C. difficile* infections in patients aged two years and over, this does not reflect the number of different patients as one patient may have had more than one episode of infection reported. These data are reported by the acute trust.

Number of trust apportioned cases of infections caused by C. difficile in patients aged two years and over—Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust

April to March each year	*Number*
2007-08	143
2008-09	121
2009-10-	81
2010-11[1]	111

[1] Figure is derived from monthly published data

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to protect the blood supply from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. [55158]

Anne Milton: The following precautionary measures have been implemented to protect the blood supply and products made by fractionating plasma:

From December 1997, blood components, plasma products or tissues obtained from any individual who later develops variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD), have been withdrawn/recalled to prevent their use;

From October 1999, white blood cells (which may carry a risk of transmitting vCJD) have been reduced in all blood used for transfusion, a process known as leucodepletion or leucoreduction;

Following the report of the first possible case of transmission of vCJD by blood transfusion in December 2003, individuals who had themselves received a transfusion of blood components since January 1980 were excluded from donating blood. This took effect from April 2004, and in July 2004, this exclusion criterion for blood donation was extended to include two further groups, who had received transfusions of blood components since 1980:

Previously transfused platelet donors,

Donors who were unsure if they had previously had a blood transfusion. This now applies to donors who have been transfused anywhere in the world;

Since 1999, plasma for the manufacture of fractionated plasma products, such as clotting factors, has been obtained from non-United Kingdom sources;

Since 2004, fresh frozen plasma for treating babies and young children born on or after 1 January 1996 has been obtained from non-UK sources, and from July 2005 its use was extended to all children up to the age of 16; and

Cryoprecipitate, for use in the under-16s, is now produced from imported methylene blue treated-plasma.

All of these measures were recommended or endorsed by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (which first met in January 2008) or its predecessor committees.

Additionally, considerable effort is being extended to promote appropriate use of blood throughout the national health service, to target blood use to where it is clinically essential, and for bleeding disorder patients (such as haemophiliacs) UK plasma has not been used for the manufacture of clotting factors since 1999 and recombinant clotting factors are now available for all patients for whom they are suitable.

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people who are considered to be at risk of contracting variant Creuztfeldt-Jakob disease; [55157]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people carrying the infective prions that cause variant Creuztfeldt-Jakob disease; and what proportion of such people he estimates are registered as blood donors. [55160]

Anne Milton: A study published in 2004 of stored appendix and tonsil tissue samples found abnormal prion protein in three appendices out of 12,674 samples. This suggested a population prevalence of about one in 4,000, though with very wide confidence interval of between one in 1,400 and one in 20,000. A further study of over 96,000 tonsils pairs is nearing completion, and a study of 30,000 appendix samples is due to be completed in 2012. Prevalence estimates are kept under active review by the relevant expert scientific advisory committees, who will review all the evidence on the completion of these ongoing studies.

In England about 4.4% of the population are blood donors, and the prevalence of potentially infective blood donors remains unknown. Not all of the individuals in the 2004 published study would be of an age eligible to donate blood, nor is it clear whether presence of abnormal prion protein in tissues such as the appendix or tonsils indicates that the blood of such a donor would transmit variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. All precautionary measures are assessed in the context of the fundamental uncertainties about prevalence.

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people diagnosed with variant Creuztfeldt-Jakob disease. [55159]

Anne Milton: Since 1995 175 patients have been identified with definite or probable variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in the United Kingdom.

The National Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease Research and Surveillance Unit publishes monthly figures on all cases of human prion disease, including vCJD, on the website at:

www.cjd.ed.ac.uk/

Dental Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists' surgeries he has visited in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [55229]

Mr Simon Burns: In the last 12 months my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has visited one community dental service in an official capacity. My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State, Earl Howe, leads on dentistry within the ministerial team and has visited two dental practices in the last 12 months, one in Worcester and one in London. He has also visited dentists providing oral health promotion services for children provided in a children's centre in Preston.

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54565]

Mr Simon Burns: In 2010-11, the Department spent approximately 16% of total staff costs on employers' superannuation contributions. This proportion is unlikely to change much in 2011-12 but it is difficult to make forecasts beyond that timeframe as the Government are considering their response to the review of public sector pensions provision, recently carried out by the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission chaired by Lord Hutton.

Disability: Advocacy

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that local advocacy services meet the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [55141]

(2) what steps he is taking to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* assess the quality of local advocacy services for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [55142]

(3) what steps he is taking to develop skills and training of advocates for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [55143]

(4) what steps he is taking to assess the local advocacy needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [55144]

(5) what steps he is taking to ensure that advocacy services for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities are included in individual packages of care; and if he will make a statement; [55145]

(6) what steps he is taking to ensure that the interests of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities are safeguarded via the provision of local advocacy services; and if he will make a statement; [55146]

(7) what steps he is taking to assist local authorities in providing people with profound and multiple learning disabilities with high quality local advocacy services; and if he will make a statement; [55147]

(8) how much was spent from the public purse on the provision of advocacy services for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [55148]

Paul Burstow: It is up to local authorities to decide how much advocacy they commission for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, who they commission it from and how they make it available to their local populations. The role of the Department is to provide the framework for services—to be clear about social care law and about social care policy. Therefore, we are considering the report of the Law Commission and looking to modernise the legal framework in which social care is provided.

It is for local authorities and national health service commissioning staff to ensure that advocacy services meet the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities through their commissioning arrangements. They also monitor and assess the quality of advocacy and local needs and make decisions about deployment of services.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, local authorities and general practitioner commissioning consortia will be required to prepare a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). This is to ensure that each area develops a comprehensive analysis of the current and future needs of their area (including those relevant to health, social care and public health). Based on the JSNA, the members of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be required to develop a joint health and well-being strategy for their area.

In its 'Vision for Adult Social Care, Capable Communities and Active Citizens', the Government say that

> "councils should focus on improving the range, quality and accessibility of information, advice and advocacy available for all people in their communities—regardless of how their care is paid for—to support their social care choices".

Additionally, the Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) Service was created under the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005. The MCA introduced a new duty to instruct advocates in certain conditions for people who lack the capacity to make decisions for themselves. The Department has funded this service by making £6 million available to local authorities to commission local services to provide the IMCA role. Nearly 10,000 people benefited from this last year and the Department published an annual report on the IMCA service in November 2010.

The Department has worked with the advocacy sector to develop a national qualification in advocacy, which is available to the sector and to commissioners. The national advocacy qualification has been part of the professionalising of advocacy and ensures that advocates are appropriately trained. The Department has also funded a 'Quality Mark' system, administered by Action for Advocacy, which enable advocacy organisations to demonstrate their services are of high quality.

The Department does not collect local information on advocacy provision and its costs.

Disability: Housing

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the specific housing needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [55292]

(2) what representations his Department has received on improvements to the quality and provision of housing for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [55293]

Paul Burstow: Valuing People Now (2009) said that independent supported living can be enjoyed by people with profound and multiple learning disabilities because the support is tailored to their particular requirements based on an assessment of individual needs and choices. Different types of housing and support, including home ownership and assured tenancies have to be matched and coordinated with a package of care specifically designed to support the particular individual in the home of their choice.

Professor Jim Mansell's report, 'Raising our Sights', published in March 2010 identified a need for adequate housing for adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities. The Government's response to Professor Mansell's report recognised that there is a continuing need for new affordable housing, including supported housing. The needs and aspirations of those with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities should be considered in the provision of general housing needs, as well as in specialist provision. We expect housing associations and local authorities to work closely to identify the type of provision that will most appropriately meet the locally identified needs. They will also have the best understanding of how any new provision will fit with, and complement, existing services and supported housing locally.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will be issuing a consultation paper on the payment of housing costs for people living in supported and sheltered housing classified as exempt accommodation. DWP intend to publish this shortly.

Preventable Diseases: South Asian Communities

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to tackle preventable diseases in South Asian communities; [55305]

(2) what steps he is taking to provide information on diabetes to South Asian communities. [55306]

Paul Burstow: In the public health White Paper, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England", we announced radical reforms to how public health is managed in future. From April 2013, local authorities will be given responsibility, backed by a ring-fenced public health grant, and new freedoms, to make a major impact on improving people's health and tackling health inequalities in every community.

We remain fully committed to the NHS Health Check programme, which is aimed at everyone in England between the ages of 40-74. It is a risk assessment and risk management programme, which assesses people's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes and supports people to reduce or manage that risk through individually tailored advice. In rolling out this programme, some primary care trusts targeted high-risk groups first such as South Asian populations who are at particularly high risk of diabetes.

The recently published National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence guidance, "Preventing type 2 diabetes: population and community-level interventions in high-risk groups and the general population", makes recommendations for the provision of culturally appropriate messages about preventing type 2 diabetes. The guidance underlines the action that we are already taking to improve public health and reduce the risk of people developing type 2 diabetes. It is for the national health service at a local level to determine the needs of their local population and to allocate resources appropriately to meet these needs.

To raise awareness of the importance of maintaining a healthy weight, the Government developed a national movement called "Change4life" to help parents make healthier food choices for their children and encourage more activity.

GP Surgeries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP surgeries he has visited in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [55230]

Mr Simon Burns: In the last 12 months my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health visited eight general practitioner practices in an official capacity.

Health Centres: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* allied health professionals work in GP clinics in each London borough. [55224]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected in the format requested.

The following table provides a headcount of general practitioner (GP) practice nurses and direct patient care staff in each primary care trust (PCT) area as at 30 September 2010.

GP practice nurses and direct patient care staff headcount in selected region, as at 30 September 2010

		Headcount	
		GP practice nurse	*Direct patient care*
Q36	London strategic health authority	2,930	1,244
5A4	Havering PCT	67	22
5A5	Kingston PCT	109	10
5A7	Bromley PCT	126	44
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	121	44
5A9	Barnet PCT	124	53
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	104	37
5C1	Enfield PCT	96	19
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	77	16
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	72	70
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	76	34
5C5	Newham PCT	115	20
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	89	0
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	47	36
5HX	Ealing PCT	135	71
5HY	Hounslow PCT	90	59
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	103	54
5K6	Harrow PCT	93	20
5K7	Camden PCT	39	57
5K8	Islington PCT	61	32
5K9	Croydon PCT	154	51
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	54	16
5LC	Westminster PCT	71	58
5LD	Lambeth PCT	136	97
5LE	Southwark PCT	76	82
5LF	Lewisham PCT	182	16
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	108	57
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	58	34
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	128	74
5NA	Redbridge PCT	85	19
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	99	28
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	35	14

Notes:

1. Data are not available for London boroughs. PCT boundaries correspond exactly to London boroughs.
2. In the 2010 GP practice census, headcount figures on direct patient care were reported for the first time. Direct patient care contains all qualified staff excluding general practitioners and practice nurses. Similarly to the staff group 'Allied Health Professionals' on the non-medical census, staff in the direct patient care category contain those such as physiotherapists, speech therapists, chiropodists etc.
3. Figures are for staff working in GP practices in London SHA.
4. *Data Quality:*

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data, but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed, but unless it is significant at national level, figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Health Centres: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs practise in each London borough. [55225]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected in the format requested.

The following table provides a headcount of general practitioners (GPs) in each primary care trust area as at 30 September 2010.

GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) in selected region as at 30 September 2010

		Headcount
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5,340
5A4	Havering PCT	130
5A5	Kingston PCT	119
5A7	Bromley PCT	215
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	157
5A9	Barnet PCT	226
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	149
5C1	Enfield PCT	192
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	110
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	200
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	198

GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) in selected region as at 30 September 2010

		Headcount
5C5	Newham PCT	196
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	179
5H1	Hammersmith And Fulham PCT	128
5HX	Ealing PCT	213
5HY	Hounslow PCT	141
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	207
5K6	Harrow PCT	152
5K7	Camden PCT	182
5K8	Islington PCT	152
5K9	Croydon PCT	224
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	108
5LC	Westminster PCT	146
5LD	Lambeth PCT	266
5LE	Southwark PCT	197
5LF	Lewisham PCT	194
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	252
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	121
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	256
5NA	Redbridge PCT	136
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	157
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	118

Notes:
1. Data not available for London boroughs. PCT boundaries correspond exactly to London boroughs.
2. The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years' data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication here:
www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/010_Workforce/nhsstaff0010/Census_Bulletin_March_2011_Final.pdf
3. Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components.
4. Data Quality:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published, This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients contracted MRSA while in hospitals in Havering in the last five years. [55310]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not collected in the format requested.

The figures presented are the "trust apportioned number" referring to infections that are presumed to be acquired in that trust during that visit. Data apportioned to trust are only available from 2008 onwards for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteraemia episodes.

Cases are trust apportioned if the location of the patient when the specimen was taken was reported as an acute hospital "in-patient", "day patient" or "emergency assessment patient" and the specimen date was on, or after, the third day of the admission where day of admission is equal to day 1.

These data only show the number of reported MRSA bloodstream infections, this does not reflect the number of different patients as one patient may have had more than one episode of infection reported.

These data are only available by financial year.

Trust apportioned cases of bloodstream infections caused by MRSA—Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust, April to March each year

	Number
2008-09	20
2009-10	19
2010-11[1]	15

[1] Figure is derived from monthly published data.

Hospitals: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* paramedics and *(d)* dentists have been injured on duty by a patient in the last five years. [55210]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of reported physical assaults against national health service staff is contained in tables as follows:

'Tables showing number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff from 2004-05 to 2007-08, broken down by NHS trust/PCT'

'Tables showing number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff in 2009-10, broken down by NHS trust/PCT'

'Tables showing number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff in 2008-09, broken down by NHS trust/PCT'

The above tables have been placed in the Library.

The tables show the number of reported physical assaults, but do not specify professional categories, whether an injury was sustained, or whether the member of staff was on duty when the assault took place.

Hospitals: Parking

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pieces of correspondence his Department received *(a)* in favour of and *(b)* against removing hospital car parking charges in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [55218]

Mr Simon Burns: On 16 September 2010, the Department published their response to the consultation carried out by the previous Government on national health service car parking charges. The response made clear that such charges are a matter for local decisions based on local circumstances but that patients have a fundamental right to fair and appropriate car parking concessions, where needed, and hospital trusts are expected to deliver them.

Since 6 May 2010, according to the Department's central correspondence system, the Department has received 364 items about hospital car parking charges. Of those, 338 expressed concern about one or more aspects of how the NHS charged for car parking.

Hospitals: Security

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has plans to increase security in hospitals; [55208]

(2) what recent discussions he has had on security in hospitals. [55209]

Mr Simon Burns: Adequate levels of security provision are for national health service bodies to establish on a local basis, according to assessment of the security risks they face.

NHS Protect has national responsibility for leading work to protect NHS staff and resources from crime and provides advice and guidance to NHS bodies on assessing security risks and taking effective action. This includes support provided regionally by Area Security Management Specialists.

All NHS bodies are required to nominate an executive director with overall responsibility for security management and a non-executive director to support this work at board level. All NHS bodies must also nominate a Local Security Management Specialist to take forward security management work locally.

Hospitals: Visits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals he has visited in an official capacity in the last year. [55334]

Mr Simon Burns: In the last 12 months my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health visited 33 hospitals in an official capacity.

John Radcliffe Hospital: Blood Transfusions

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the development of the electronic blood transfusion system at the John Radcliffe Hospital was first initiated. [55502]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not held centrally. The right hon. Member may wish to approach the trust directly to retrieve the information required.

Liverpool Primary Care Trust: Advertising

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been spent on *(a)* advertising promotions and *(b)* promotions by Liverpool primary care trust in each of the last five years; [55778]

(2) what the cost to the NHS was of advertising by Liverpool primary care trust *(a)* in the Liverpool Echo and *(b)* on radio related to (i) NHS Healthcheck, (ii) cancer symptoms and (iii) dentistry in the latest period for which figures are available. [55777]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for each primary care trust to determine how best to spend their allocated funding in the best interests of their local populations.

Medical Equipment

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what clinical studies are required in respect of new high risk implantable devices to be used in surgery; and if he will make a statement; [55903]

(2) what evidence of quality and reliability is required before new hip joints, stents and pacemakers are used in surgical procedures in the NHS. [55904]

Mr Simon Burns: Before a medical device can be placed on the market the manufacturer has to show that he has met the safety, quality and performance requirements laid down in the EC medical devices directives. This will include having clinical data to support any claims made for the device. For high risk devices, such as hip joints, stents and pacemakers, the clinical data is assessed by an independent conformity assessment organisation, known as a notified body, designated by the competent authority of the member state where they are located. On the basis of the notified body's conformity assessment the manufacturer can affix the CE marking (denoting compliance with the directive requirements) on the device.

Since March 2010, when the 2007 revision of the EC medical devices directive came fully into force, manufacturers of high risk devices have to justify, to the notified body, not conducting a specific clinical trial of their product to obtain the clinical data. Where this is because the manufacturer is relying on data relating to a similar device, the manufacturer has to demonstrate equivalency between the devices and thus the relevance and appropriateness of the data used.

Ophthalmology

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many opticians' premises he has visited in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [55228]

Mr Simon Burns: In the last 12 months the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire has not visited any opticians' premises in an official capacity.

Public Expenditure

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to cease to fund any of its functions over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [55185]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not ceased to fund any of its functions since the beginning of the current spending round, as the functions of the Department have not changed. The Department continues, for example, to fulfil its Department of State functions of accountability to the public and Parliament; to provide strategic oversight of health and social care policy; and to be accountable for the funding of the national health service.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the Department's functions will change as a result of the modernisation process. We will be reviewing the Department's operating model to determine which functions the Department should continue to fulfil, and which should be moved. It is therefore likely that some functions will be transferred to other organisations and the Department will take on some new ones. The exact timing and nature of these changes will not be confirmed until the outcome of the listening exercise is known.

Ritalin

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been prescribed Ritalin in England in each of the last five years. [55214]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of people prescribed a medicine is not collected. The following table shows the number of prescription items dispensed for methylphenidate hydrochloride, of which Ritalin is a brand.

Number of methylphenidate hydrochloride prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England, 2006-2010

	Methylphenidate Hydrochloride (thousand)	*Of which Ritalin (thousand)*
2006	456.9	26.5
2007	535.3	25.5
2008	573.4	22.8
2009	610.2	20.2
2010	661.5	18.8

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis system

Seasonal Affective Disorder

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on seasonal affective disorder and the NHS. [55211]

Paul Burstow: We are not aware of any recent representations.

Smoking

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the predominant determinants of smoking initiation. [55077]

Anne Milton: There is a growing body of published, peer reviewed research evidence on the determinants of smoking initiation. The Department monitors all relevant evidence in this area because of the crucial need to reduce the take up of smoking by children.

The recently published Tobacco Control Plan for England includes references to some of this evidence such as Gervais, A. et al. (2006). "Milestones in the natural course of cigarette use among adolescents" in *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 175(3).

A copy of the plan has already been placed in the Library.

Surgery: Private Sector

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations on NHS patients were carried out by private sector organisations in each year since 2000. [55665]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is in the following table.

A count of finished consultant episodes[1] where a main operative procedure or intervention[2] was performed at independent sector providers; 2000-01 to 2009-10[3]

	FCEs with an operative procedure	
	Carried out by independent sector providers	*Carried out by all organisations (including independent sector providers)*
2000-01	11	6,509,425
2001-02	11	6,435,022
2002-03	438	6,612,582
2003-04	4,936	6,772,074
2004-05	13,109	6,847,589
2005-06	16,051	7,215,286
2006-07	61,125	7,888,074
2007-08	87,027	8,606,493
2008-09	159,249	9,274,423
2009-10	208,693	9,747,584

[1] Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)
A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.
[2] Main procedure or intervention
The first recorded procedure or intervention in each episode, usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (eg time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedures.
[3] Assessing growth through time
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in national health service practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.
Note:
Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Tobacco

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 66-68WS, on the Tobacco Control Plan (England), what evidence his Department has examined on the targeting of tobacco promotion on young people; [55154]

(2) with reference to his Department's publication "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: a tobacco control plan for England", what evidence his Department has examined to support the view that tobacco companies are seen to promote tobacco products through entertainment media. [55201]

Anne Milton: We have published six pages of Resources for Comprehensive Tobacco Control as an appendix to the Tobacco Control plan for England. This appendix includes links to the growing body of evidence of the targeting of tobacco promotion to young people and the promotion of tobacco products through entertainment media. Amongst the resources are:

> "Preventing the uptake of smoking by children and young people" (NICE public health guidance 14) and "School based interventions to prevent smoking" (NICE public health guidance 23).

A copy of the plan has already been placed in the Library.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with representatives from the tobacco industry in the last 12 months. [55216]

Anne Milton: We have had no discussions with the tobacco industry. We take very seriously the United Kingdom's obligations as a party to the World Health Organisation's framework convention on tobacco control (FCTC). The FCTC places obligations on parties to protect the development of public health policy from the vested interests of the tobacco industry. We have made our commitment on this very clear in chapter 10 of the Tobacco Control Plan for England.

A copy of the plan has already been placed in the Library.

Tobacco: Regulations

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to make available the conclusions of the proposed consultation on plain packaging of tobacco products before the entry into force of regulations on the display of tobacco products; [55177]

(2) if he will commission an independent report on the effects of plain packaging of tobacco products in Australia before implementation of any such requirements in England. [55178]

Anne Milton: The Government have committed to consult on options to reduce the promotional impact of tobacco packaging, including plain packaging, before the end of 2011. A report on the consultation exercise will be published, including confirmation of the proposed way forward, following the consultation. The timing of publication of this report is unrelated to the commencement of the legislation ending displays of tobacco products in shops in England.

The Department's approach to plain packaging will be set out in the consultation document, including consideration of the available evidence about whether plain packaging would have an additional public health benefit.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to include a sunset clause in any amended regulations on the display of tobacco products in retail premises; [55179]

(2) whether he plans to submit for scrutiny amended draft regulations on the display of tobacco products to *(a)* the Regulatory Policy Committee and *(b)* the Reducing Regulation Committee. [55203]

Anne Milton: As with all new legislation that impacts on business, amended regulations on the display of tobacco products are subject to the Government's regulatory framework. This includes consideration by the Reducing Regulation Committee, as advised by the Regulatory Policy Committee, and consideration of the Government's policy on sunsetting.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Directors: Females

David Mowat: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities when she plans to respond to Lord Davies' recommendations on increasing the numbers of female directors; and if she will make a statement. [55822]

Lynne Featherstone: We strongly welcomed Lord Davies' report and his recommendations for a business-led strategy to improve the gender diversity of corporate boards. We do not plan to issue a formal response.

We are working with key stakeholders, including chair persons of companies, company secretaries, academics and business representative organisations to encourage companies to adopt the measures set out by Lord Davies, including publishing aspirational targets for the number of women on their boards in 2013 and 2015.

DEFENCE

Strategic Defence and Security Review

18. **Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the future capacity of the armed forces following the decisions made in the strategic defence and security review. [55372]

Dr Fox: As they are showing every day in Afghanistan, in Libya and in other operations as tasks around the world, our armed forces remain highly capable and flexible, able to carry out a wide range of operations at some distance from the UK. This will continue as we progress towards Future Force 2020.

Defence Equipment: Afghanistan

20. **Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the equipment available to the armed forces in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [55374]

Peter Luff: The delivery of capability to our armed forces in Afghanistan is our top priority and equipment requirements are kept under constant review. As we have made clear on many occasions, this Government are determined to make sure that our service personnel have all the equipment and protection they need for the vital work they are undertaking in Afghanistan and that is exactly what we are doing.

Defence Exports

21. **Eric Ollerenshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to increase UK defence exports. [55375]

Mr Gerald Howarth: As I reported to the House during questions on 31 January 2011, we are supporting defence exports through an active and innovative cross-Government defence diplomacy initiative, working closely with the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation. Exports help to build and enhance relations with allies, to support UK defence industry, and to reduce the cost of equipment for Britain's armed forces. They are also an essential element of the Government's export-led growth strategy.

Ministers and officials from across Government, including the Prime Minister, continue actively to promote British defence exports overseas.

Operation Ellamy

22. **Mr Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the commitment to Operation Ellamy; and if he will make a statement. [55376]

Dr Fox: The UK remains committed to Operation Ellamy and the ongoing mission in support of UN Security Council resolution 1973. We are clear—we will end military action when the regime obeys international law and UN Security Council resolutions and lifts the threat to the Libyan people.

Franco-British Co-operation

23. **Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in developing a work programme for increased Franco-British co-operation on the acquisition of *(a)* submarine technologies and *(b)* unmanned aerial systems. [55377]

Peter Luff: We have made significant progress in these areas of Franco-British co-operation. We have, with our French colleagues, identified a number of potential areas for co-operation around submarine enterprise management and some specific equipments and technologies. Detailed proposals will be put to national authorities for consideration, taking into account extant international agreements and obligations. We are also taking forward joint work on some of the equipment and technologies on unmanned aerial systems, along with the other strands of co-operative work which we announced following the summit in November 2010.

Technical Training

24. **Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of defence technical training; and if he will make a statement. [55378]

Nick Harvey: The future location or locations of defence technical training are currently being considered as part of the Defence Technical Training Change Programme. This process is subject to full internal scrutiny and a final decision is expected before the end of this year.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British-based private security companies were employed in operations in Afghanistan in the latest period for which information is available; and what regulations govern the conduct and use of such companies by commissioners other than the British Government. [53867]

Dr Fox: The British Government specifically the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, currently have three contracts with British-based private security companies in Afghanistan.

An international code of conduct for private security companies was signed in November 2010. Over 90 companies, many British-based, have signed up to observe this voluntary code. Signatory companies commit themselves to:

> "responsible provision of security services so as to support the rule of law, respect human rights of all persons, and protect the interests of their clients."

The Government are now working with others to establish an international mechanism to monitor compliance with the code.

RFA Largs Bay

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of RFA Largs Bay. [55204]

Peter Luff: Following a competition to market RFA Largs Bay for continued military use, the Australian Government have been selected as the preferred bidder to buy the ship. Detailed discussions are now taking place with the Australian Department of Defence to complete the sale.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Prime Minister (1) for what reason letters are sent from his office to hon. Members giving information which cannot be true; [55783]

(2) what responsibility he takes for replies sent to letters from hon. Members from his Office purportedly signed by individuals who do not exist. [55784]

The Prime Minister: Correspondence was handled under arrangements put in place in 2005 when on security advice, following an incident in which a member of staff was personally targeted and threatened, members of staff were advised not to use their names. After review this approach will no longer be used.

Ministers

Ian Lucas: To ask the Prime Minister on which occasions he has met the First Minister of *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Northern Ireland since his appointment. [50852]

The Prime Minister: I met the First Ministers of Wales, Scotland and the First and deputy First Ministers of Northern Ireland at Downing street on 8 June 2010. I also met the First Minister for Wales on 17 May 2010, the First Minister for Scotland on 14 May 2010 and 14 February 2011, and the First and deputy First Ministers for Northern Ireland on 20 May 2010. I, and Secretaries of State, are in regular communication with them. Following the 5 May elections I have spoken to the First Ministers of Wales and Scotland, and the First and deputy First Ministers of Northern Ireland.

Prime Minister: Meetings

Mr Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what matters were discussed during his meeting with the Prime Minister of Israel; who attended the meeting; what the duration of the meeting was; and if he will make a statement. [55251]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the statement made by a No.10 spokesperson after my meeting with the Prime Minister of Israel. A copy of the statement can be found on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2011/05/pm-welcomes-prime-minister-netanyahu-to-number-10-2-63463

TREASURY

Business: Government Assistance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to receive state aid approval from the European Commission for the proposed changes announced in the 2011 Budget to *(a)* research and development tax credits for small and medium-sized enterprises, *(b)* the Enterprise Investment Scheme and Venture Capital Trusts and *(c)* the climate change levy. [55707]

Justine Greening: The Government have submitted notifications to the European Commission regarding the changes proposed in the 2011 Budget to the research and development tax credits for small and medium-sized enterprises, the Enterprise Investment Scheme, Venture Capital Trusts and the climate change levy.

The Government expect to receive a response from the Commission in due course.

Credit Unions

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to support credit unions. [55572]

Mr Hoban: The Government are bringing forward detailed proposals to foster diversity, promote mutuals and create a more competitive banking industry.

On 12 April, the Treasury made the Mutual Societies (Electronic Communications) Order 2011. This allows credit unions and other mutuals to communicate with their members electronically.

On 3 March, the Department for Work and Pensions announced a £73 million Modernisation Fund to help credit unions expand their services.

The Legislative Reform (Industrial and Provident Societies and Credit Unions) Order 2011 will be re-laid before Parliament in due course and will present new opportunities for credit unions to develop their services and expand their membership.

The Government will then bring forward proposals to commence sections of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies and Credit Unions Act 2010.

EU Budget

Mr Carswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the potential change to *(a)* the EU budget and *(b)* UK contributions to the EU budget arising from any sovereign defaults on loan payments by Greece. [55180]

Justine Greening: There are no contributions to the May 2010 international financial assistance package for Greece from the EU budget or from the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism, which is backed by the EU budget.

Financial Institutions: Redundancy

Richard Fuller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid in redundancy or other severance compensation to each senior executive and director of a UK financial institution that has received financial support from the public purse since July 2007. [55496]

Mr Hoban: The terms and provisions of the remuneration contracts in place for individuals who were employed at Lloyds Banking Group, HBOS, the Royal Bank of Scotland and Northern Rock are a matter for the individuals and the banks' management.

Quoted companies are required to produce a directors' remuneration report containing information on the remuneration paid to their directors.

Income Tax

Mr Timpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of people resident in Crewe and Nantwich constituency who will no longer pay income tax consequent on the proposed increase in the personal allowance from April 2011. [55565]

Mr Gauke: The June 2010 Budget announced a £1,000 cash increase in the personal allowance for under 65s to £7,475 in 2011-12 (£820 above the previous Government's plans), with the benefits focused on individuals on low and middle incomes through accompanying changes to the basic rate limit and national insurance upper earnings and profit limits.

As a result of these measures, the Government estimate that 830,000 of the lowest income taxpayers will be removed from income tax altogether, of whom 100,000 are in the north-west and Merseyside region.

These estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Reliable estimates are not available at the parliamentary constituency level, due to greater uncertainties in projections for small geographical areas and small sample sizes.

Libya: Public Expenditure

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the size is of the Treasury reserve he plans to provide for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1973. [54986]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 10 May 2011]*: The Treasury continues to work closely with the MoD to review expenditure associated with the UK commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 1973. Given the nature of the military operations, the additional costs are not fixed and will continue to be met from the Reserve. Current estimates of likely expenditure are within the range described by the Chancellor in the House on 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 850.

Loans: Portugal

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the EU financial rescue package for Portugal on the *(a)* integrity of the eurozone and *(b)* UK economy. [54835]

Mr Hoban: A strong and stable euro area is in the UK national interest—more than 40% of the UK's exports are to the euro area. Further, we must also be alive to the risks that the current uncertainty poses, because of financial sector linkages, well beyond the euro area. Treasury officials closely monitor developments in Portugal and the rest of the euro area, as with all major economies, as part of the normal policy development process.

National Insurance Fund

Mr Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the surplus of the National Insurance Fund was in each of the last five years; and what proportion of receipts of the National Insurance Fund was allocated to funding the mandatory state pension in each of the last five years. [55283]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is available in the published Great Britain National Insurance Fund Accounts and the Northern Ireland National Insurance Fund Accounts, 2006-07 to 2009-10, copies of which are in the House Library.

Smuggling: Northern Ireland

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when HM Revenue and Customs plans to complete its review of the use of vehicle stop and search powers in Northern Ireland. [55768]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs hope to complete the review by 30 June 2011.

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Martin Vickers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the Exchequer of social security payment transfers to be made under the provisions of EU Regulation 883/2004 in 2011-12. [54866]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

There are two elements to the payments—social security benefits and healthcare claims.

Social security benefit expenditure.

Under the EU rules that coordinate the social security rights of persons who move within the EEA and Switzerland, some benefits acquired in one member state must be paid to people who live outside that state but within the EEA or Switzerland. Generally the benefits are acquired because someone is, or has been, working in the United Kingdom and has paid the relevant national insurance contributions.

These regulations apply to benefits for old age, sickness and invalidity, unemployment, family responsibilities, death and survivors, and industrial injuries, and lay down the circumstances in which a person retains social security benefits when they move between EEA member states. Winter fuel payments are covered by these rules.

Figures for the cost to the Exchequer for social security payment transfers made under the provisions of EU Regulation 883/2004 for the year 2011-12 are not available.

Healthcare claims.

Health is a benefit in kind for the purpose of the regulations. Member states reimburse each other on an annual basis for care provided to each other's citizens. The costs are for claims for medical costs made under the European Health Insurance Card scheme, for healthcare provided to posted workers, for planned treatment and for healthcare costs relating to state pensioners. State pensioner costs account for around 80% of the total spend.

The UK pays out far more than it receives mainly due to the large number of UK state pensioners who retire overseas in comparison to the very low number of state pensioners from other EEA countries who retire to the UK.

Estimated totals for claims by and against the UK for healthcare benefits in kind made under the regulation for the year 2011-12 are £60 million and £952 million respectively.

Martin Vickers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the amount transferred in social security payment transfers under the provisions of EU Regulation No 1408/71 in each of the last 10 years. [54867]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

I will let the hon. Member have such information as is available as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Chris Grayling to Martin Vickers:

There are two elements to the payments—social security benefits and health care claims.

Social security benefit expenditure

Under the EU rules that coordinate the social security rights of persons who move within the EEA and Switzerland, some benefits acquired in one member state must be paid to people who live outside that state but within the EEA or Switzerland. Generally the benefits are acquired because someone is, or has been, working in the United Kingdom and has paid the relevant national insurance contributions.

These regulations apply to benefits for old age, sickness and invalidity, unemployment, family responsibilities, death and survivors, and industrial injuries, and lay down the circumstances in which a person retains social security benefits when they move between EEA member states. Winter fuel payments are covered by these rules.

Health care expenditure

Health is a benefit in kind for the purpose of the regulations. Member states reimburse each other on an annual basis for care provided to each other's citizens. The costs are for claims for medical costs made under the European Health Insurance Card scheme, for health care provided to posted workers, for planned treatment and for health care costs relating to state pensioners. State pensioner costs account for around 80% of the total spend.

The UK pays out far more than it receives mainly due to the large number of UK state pensioners who retire overseas in comparison to the very low number of state pensioners from other EEA countries who retire to the UK.

The amounts transferred in respect of social security benefits and health care claims under the provisions of EU Regulation 1408/71 are shown in the following tables. The figures are rounded to the nearest £ million.

Social security payments

£ million

	Total	Of which state pension
2000-01	607	536
2001-02	667	592
2002-03	775	691
2003-04	844	755
2004-05	979	887
2005-06	1,073	977
2006-07	1,146	1,048
2007-08	1,261	1,158
2008-09	1,361	1,252
2009-10	1,485	1,373

Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data.

Figures for family benefits (child benefit and child tax credit) are not available separately from overall expenditure.

EEA health care costs

	Member states' claims against the UK	Claims against member states
2002-03	250	32
2003-04	314	25
2004-05	382	31
2005-06	463	35
2006-07	526	38
2007-08	630	46
2008-09	710	47
2009-11	838	57
2010-11	925	58

Totals for claims by and against the UK for health care benefits in kind provided for years 2002-03 to 2010-11 are set out in the table given on 12 July 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column WA100. Comparable data for years prior to 2002-03 are not available.

State pension could be paid in the EEA under domestic legislation but the amount payable would be different as it would not be uprated in all cases. Therefore the total amount of state retirement pension is ultimately paid as a result of the EU regulations

The figures for health care costs are already in the public domain. The Resource Outturn totals (which represent the total claims) that the Department of Health provided have in the past been used for the Health Select Committee and are reflected in the DH Resource Accounts that are published each year, and have been used in several parliamentary questions (Commons and Lords).

The most recent PQ containing this information was asked by Lord Laird on 12 July 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column WA100 (reference HL952).

Tax Avoidance

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what evidence his Department has evaluated relating to allegations of UK tax avoidance by *(a)* Vodafone, *(b)* Arcadia, *(c)* Diageo, *(d)* Shell and *(e)* Barclays over the last 10 years. [55623]

Mr Gauke: I cannot comment on the tax affairs of any individual or corporate taxpayer.

The Government are committed to tackling tax avoidance and set out action being taken at Budget in the document "Tackling Tax Avoidance" which is available at

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_taxavoidance.pdf

The Government have shown their strong support for HMRC in its operational work by investing £917 million over the spending review period to tackle avoidance, evasion and criminal attack with the objective of bringing in around £7 billion per year in additional revenue by 2014-15.

VAT: Alcoholic Drinks

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the potential effect on *(a)* social clubs and *(b)* working men's clubs of the (i) increase in the rate of value added tax and (ii) changes in the rate of duty on alcohol. [54247]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* Economic effects are considered on the whole package of Budget measures by the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR). Individual measures and their impact on specific sectors are not considered in isolation.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55869]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change received 15,829 invoices from its suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011, of which, 1,146 (7.2%) were not paid within the Government's payment target of five days. Of these payments, 8,100 were made by Government procurement card at the point of purchase.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's *Fair Payment guidance.* [55892]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change sets contractual terms and conditions to ensure that its payments are passed through the supply chain in accordance with the timescales set out in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. The Department's contracts include standard clauses undertaking to pay correctly submitted invoices within 30 days of receipt and requiring that contractors make payment within 30 days to any sub-contractors used to perform services on their behalf under the contract.

In making payments to Tier 1 suppliers, the Department exceeds the Government's more stretching target to pay over 80% of valid invoices within five days of receipt.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55739]

Gregory Barker: DECC holds no contracts which allows contractors to store the personal data of UK citizens overseas.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against his Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled since its inception. [54642]

Gregory Barker: The Department has spent the following amounts:

	Amount October 2008 to March 2011 (£ million)
Damages	162.66
Claimant costs	19.59
Defendant costs	96.32
Total	308.57

Nearly all the above payments relate to injury related claims connected with the health liabilities of British Coal that now rest with the Department. The vast majority of these claims have been handled under the supervision of the High Court. However, the coal health figures relate to claims issued in all jurisdictions, even though the Department has assumed that the term "civil claims" in the question refers to claims issued in England and Wales, in the courts of civil jurisdiction (the High Court and the county courts). Data on coal health claims payments and costs relating solely to claims issued in England and Wales could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change was established in October 2008. In relation to coal health claims, the amounts included in the table for 2008-09 are pro rata estimates, based on total payments and costs that year.

The figures included on other (non-coal health) claims relate to claims issued in England and Wales, in the courts of civil jurisdiction, and do not therefore include employment-related claims pursued through the employment tribunals. In one of these cases, the Department used the case handling services of another Government Department, and the cost of those services could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what additional pay he plans to provide to officials in his Department in the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2013 to reflect *(a)* seniority, *(b)* promotion and *(c)* performance. [55412]

Gregory Barker: For the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012, the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) continues to be subject to a pay freeze and will not be awarding any consolidated pay increases to staff earning more than £21,249. We plan to award consolidated pay increases of at least £250 in line with Treasury guidance to staff earning less than £21,000, although the final amount has not yet been determined.

For the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, DECC has not yet considered what increases will be awarded to staff, as the Department will make decisions in line with central pay guidance that has not yet been published.

(a) DECC does not currently award additional pay to reflect seniority and has no plans to do so.

(b) Where staff are promoted from one grade to another the Department awards a 10% increase in pay, except where this results in a lower salary than the grade minimum at the higher grade, where the grade minimum is paid instead. We expect this policy to remain unchanged during the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2013.

(c) The value of any non consolidated performance awards payable between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2013 are yet to be determined.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to cease to fund any of its functions over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [55188]

Gregory Barker: DECC is not ceasing any major functions. The Department is though going through a process of restructuring including reducing from five director general groups to four. We have also undertaken a business planning process that has involved reallocation of resources to ensure we have sufficient capacity and the right skills to deliver our key priorities.

Energy: Housing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what his policy is on the setting of installer qualification requirements under the Green Deal; [55656]

(2) whether installers who will be legally responsible for signing off on electrical work under the Green Deal will have to be qualified to level 3 or above; [55657]

(3) what arrangements are in place to ensure that installers who will be legally responsible for signing off on electrical work under the Green Deal are appropriately qualified; [55658]

(4) when his Department plans to consult on *(a)* the specific qualifications requirements for installers working under the Green Deal and *(b)* the installation works that will be included under the Green Deal funding arrangements. [55664]

Gregory Barker: We have commissioned the British Standards Institute (BSI) to develop a Green Deal standard by the end of this year. This will bring together the existing standards—including those for installation of electrical works—and new standards where necessary. BSI will develop the standard with industry and also publicly consult in late summer. Only installers who meet this standard will be allowed to install measures under the Green Deal.

We will use UK Accreditation Service (UKAS) to provide independent accreditation of installers.

To support this, we have already announced that we will fund at least 1,000 dedicated Green Deal apprenticeships, in addition to the many apprenticeships that already exist in trade sectors—including electrical contracting and building services.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether an installer registered under the Green Deal will also be able to act as an assessor under that scheme. [55663]

Gregory Barker: Should someone meet all of the relevant standards and codes of practice to be both an installer and assessor, they may fulfil both functions under the Green Deal. In every case, there will be specific safeguards to protect consumers and retain the integrity of both processes.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of the new Green Deal on suppliers of cavity wall insulation; and if he will make a statement. [55816]

Gregory Barker: Our current estimates, as published in the Energy Bill Impact Assessment, are that from October 2012, when the Green Deal is introduced, 4 million cavity walls are feasible.

We believe suppliers will benefit from the Green Deal or the Energy Company Obligation in accessing this remaining potential.

Feed-in Tariffs

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how much he estimates the feed-in tariffs scheme would cost energy consumers if the rules on eligibility and tariff levels remained unchanged in each of the next five years; [55434]

(2) how much he estimates the feed-in tariffs scheme would cost energy consumers if large-scale solar power plants remained eligible for the scheme in each of the next five years. [55435]

Gregory Barker: The estimated costs to electricity consumers of the feed-in tariffs scheme if no changes are made to the scheme as it was announced in February 2010 are provided in the following table. These projected costs are based on original analysis carried out for the February 2010 final impact assessment and recent analysis undertaken on large scale solar photovoltaics and farm-scale anaerobic digestion for the fast-track review of FITs.

It is important to note that these figures do not take into account further evidence obtained since the launch of the fast-track review. We are in the process of reviewing this evidence, but early indications are that it would lead to an increase in the estimates.

Estimated costs to consumers of FITs (2011 prices, discounted)

	£ million
2011-12	90
2012-13	180
2013-14	290
2014-15	420
2015-16	580

Notes:

1. Impacts are presented as additional to baseline, where baseline costs are those costs expected to occur for sub-5MW uptake under the renewables obligation in the absence of FITs.
2. Figures have been rounded.
3. Cost to consumers is the net subsidy cost of the scheme, i.e. total generation and export tariff payments minus the value of exports to suppliers.
4. Each annual figure is cumulative, i.e. includes payments against projects that joined the feed- in tariffs scheme in previous years.

The first comprehensive review of FITs as announced by Government in February 2011 is currently under way and may provide revised estimates of future FIT costs to consumers.

Fuels: Prices

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on the independent petrol retailing sector of the varying cost to the sector of premium branded fuels across the UK. [55843]

Charles Hendry: The UK has a diverse, open and competitive fuel retail market that we consider to be in the wider long-term interest of consumers. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) regulates markets in the UK through enforcement of competition law, to ensure that markets work well for the benefit of consumers.

I recognise the importance of the independent petrol retailing sector to the UK, and if independent petrol retailers have evidence of anti-competitive behaviour in the cost to the sector of premium branded fuels, I would urge them to write, enclosing as much detailed evidence as possible, to the OFT.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the UK *(a)* Government and *(b)* downstream oil industry will be consulted on the terms of reference for the investigation by G20 countries of (i) Argos and (ii) Platts. [55844]

Charles Hendry: The terms of reference for this investigation were established by the Communiqué issued by the G20 summit in Seoul of November 2010:

> "We also request the IEF, IEA, OPEC and IOSCO to produce a joint report, by the April 2011 Finance Ministers' meeting, on how the oil spot market prices are assessed by oil price reporting agencies and how this affects the transparency and functioning of oil markets."

A preliminary report to G20 Finance Ministers was made in April, with the final conclusions to be ready for Finance Ministers when they meet in October.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the UK *(a)* Government and *(b)* downstream oil industry will be involved in the investigation by G20 countries into the workings of (i) Argos and (ii) Platts. [55845]

Charles Hendry: This investigation was initiated by the G20 summit in Seoul of November 2010, which asked the International Energy Forum, the International Energy Agency, OPEC and the International Organization of Securities Commissions to produce a joint report on how the oil spot market prices are assessed by oil price reporting agencies ("PRAs").

Neither G20 members nor the downstream oil industry are directly involved in this investigation.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the Downstream Oil Industry Forum report to be published; and to whom it will be circulated. [55846]

Charles Hendry: Work has been conducted to examine the resilience of the downstream oil industry by a task group of the Downstream Oil Industry Forum; a study carried out by Wood Mackenzie on behalf of DECC on this topic has been completed, is available on DECC's internet site and was placed in the Library of the House on 26 April. In addition, a related report conducted for DECC by Deloitte LLP has also been placed in the Library of the House and is available on DECC's website.

Renewable Energy

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the energy supply was generated from renewable energy sources in the UK in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010. [55421]

Gregory Barker: The following table shows the proportion of primary energy supply from primary renewable energy sources for 1997 and 2009 (data will be available for 2010 in July 2011).

Percentage

	1997	*2009*
Renewable energy proportion of primary energy supply	1.0	3.4

Renewable Energy: Manpower

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of people employed in the renewable energy sector in the UK in each of the last three years; and what estimate he has made of the numbers who will be employed in the sector in *(a)* 2011 and *(b)* 2012. [54239]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

Independent analysis commissioned by this Department and its predecessors estimates that in 2008/09 the renewable energy sector (including its supply chain) employed over 266,000 people, reflecting a marginal increase on 2007/08.

Growth rates for employment are difficult to estimate, but the commissioned analysis estimated (in December 2009) average annual growth rate in market value of 5.0% for the renewable energy sector in the UK between 2009/10 and 2015/16.

Sellafield

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the section of the report to the Radioactive Substances Committee of the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic by the expert panel in relation to radioactive discharges from Sellafield into the Irish Sea since 2008. [55780]

Charles Hendry: The Government welcomed the report of the expert panel and remain committed to meeting their obligations under the OSPAR convention's radioactive substances strategy. Significant progress has been made by Sellafield in reducing radioactive discharges to the Irish sea. While annual discharge levels do fluctuate and indeed increased in 2008 and 2009, I expect this overall downward trend to continue as a result of new technology and abatement techniques though managing the legacy wastes at Sellafield remains a challenging task.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and *(b)* Nuclear Management Partners on the changes to the levels of (i) alpha-emitting radioactive discharges, (ii) tritium discharges, (iii) beta discharges and (iv) technetium 99 discharges from Sellafield. [55781]

Charles Hendry: No recent discussions have taken place with representatives of either the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority or Nuclear Management Partners on changes to the levels of discharges from Sellafield of these radionuclides. However, officials from my Department continue to work with Sellafield and other Government Departments to monitor the level of radioactive discharges from Sellafield.

Wind Power: Finance

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much each wind farm *(a)* operator and *(b)* site received in constraints payments in the last two financial years. [55659]

Charles Hendry: National Grid advises that the total level of constraint payments made to wind farms over the last two financial years is as follows:

Wind farm site	*Wind farm operator*	*Constraint payment (£)*
Beinn Tharsuinn	Scottish Power	31,950.00
Black Law	Scottish Power	134,960.24
Whitelee	Scottish Power	466,396.47
Farr	RWE nPower Renewables	263,484.11
Hadyard Hill	Scottish and Southern	152,698.51
Millennium	Flack Renewables	32,533.80

No other wind farms have received constraint payments.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to modify the constraints payments to wind farm operators as part of his plan for electricity market reform. [55660]

Charles Hendry: Reducing or increasing the output of generators is a routine part of National Grid's role to balance supply and demand. One of the tools used to do this is the "Balancing Mechanism", where in the final hour before real time National Grid can accept "bids" and "offers" from all types of generators for the payment they require to alter their output.

This is a competitive market where National Grid will pick the most cost-effective way to deliver what they need. This is being kept under review, but it is a matter for Ofgem who are responsible for monitoring developments in the market and facilitating any changes that may be required.

DECC does not plan to consider constraints payments to wind farm operators as part of plans for electricity market reform.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55733]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Office policy does not allow data to be stored overseas. Departmental electronic and paper records show that the Cabinet Office does not hold any contracts which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas.

Departmental Information Officers

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38966]

Mr Maude: The number of staff employed in press and communications within the Cabinet Office (including No. 10) was 115, as at April 2010.

In December 2010 it was agreed to integrate the Cabinet Office, No. 10, OGC and DirectGov communications team into a single central communications function.

The new structure now in place, which also includes teams supporting the Deputy Prime Minister and the National Security Council, has 95 posts as follows:

	Number
Press officers	28
Internal communication officers	6
External communications officers	44
Communication strategy officers	8
Other	9

Commission for the Compact and Capacitybuilders, the non-departmental bodies sponsored by the Cabinet Office, ceased to exist as of the 31 march 2011. Data for communications professionals in both organisations were not available to answer this question.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* officers in other positions with a communications remit his Department employed on the most recent date for which figures are available. [45537]

Mr Maude: The number of staff employed in press and communications within the Cabinet Office (including No. 10) was 115, as at April 2010.

In December 2010 it was agreed to integrate the Cabinet Office, No. 10, OGC and DirectGov communications team into a single central communications function.

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Other	9

Government Departments: ICT

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of retendering Government contracts for IT suppliers since May 2010. [43220]

Mr Maude: The Government have not retendered contracts centrally with IT suppliers. This has been left to Departments to manage where appropriate. The Cabinet Office has not collected information relating to the costs involved in this process.

However, since July last year, the Cabinet Office has carried out a programme of renegotiation with Government's top suppliers, of which, 17 were IT suppliers. Over £800 million of savings have been delivered from this programme within 2010-11.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance: Norwich City Council

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of attendance allowance in the Norwich city council local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available; and what average weekly level of benefit was paid to those claimants in the latest period for which figures are available. [53582]

Maria Miller: The information requested is in the following table:

Attendance allowance recipients, August 2010

Area	*Total number of claimants*	*Average amount (£ per week)*
Norwich local authority	3,540	60.67

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10; average amounts are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
2. Figures do not include people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. These figures are published at: http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Asthma

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of cases of asthma caused by high exposure to flour within the baking industry. [55278]

Chris Grayling: Statistics specifically about the number of cases of asthma caused by high exposure to flour within the baking industry are not available. Published statistics do not allow the causative agent for cases of occupational asthma to be identified within a specific occupational group. Statistics for the occupational group 'bakers and flour confectioners' are provided and these reflect the role of flour dust as a cause of occupational asthma.

Based on reports by chest physicians to the Surveillance of Work Related Occupational Respiratory Disease (SWORD) scheme and reports to the Occupational Physicians Reporting Activity (OPRA) scheme, the incidence of occupational asthma among 'bakers and flour confectioners' during 2007-09 was estimated to be 18 cases per year. However, these statistics are subject to under-reporting.

Other statistical data sources suggest that the overall incidence of occupational asthma may be as much as tenfold higher than estimated by SWORD and OPRA.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in his Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much his Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51493]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) had 16,077 mobile telephones, 1,922 BlackBerries and 6,077 3G mobile data cards—figures for March 2011.

The total spend for the 2010-11 financial year on mobile related services, including rental, call charges and data usage, was £3.4 million plus VAT.

The Department's business units are responsible for issuing mobile communication devices to their staff based on DWP business need. DWP is currently reviewing the use of all mobile devices and this will result in a significant reduction in the overall number of devices across the Department. All business units are expected to continuously review their requirement, with an emphasis on cost reduction.

Through the Cabinet Office, the Department has recently taken advantage of the new central Government framework on mobile tariff rates, introduced from 1 April 2011. However, the tariffs are being applied retrospectively from 1 October 2010 as part of the contractual agreement completed in autumn 2010. These new rates offer significant savings on rental and call charges. These savings are not included in the 2010-11 spend but will be brought to account during the 2011-12 financial year.

The Department has separately negotiated further reductions in the cost of its BlackBerry rental charge. These reduced rates were agreed in autumn 2010 and came into effect from April 2011.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50207]

Chris Grayling: Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements. The ministerial team has led the Department's travel cost reduction programme by example, as shown by the reduction in overall travel expenditure by Ministers in the categories listed. This has decreased from £566,000 to £106,000 overall.

This is broken down as follows, with comparative figures provided from May to February 2009-10 provided for the purpose of illustration:

	Period		
Expenditure category	*May 2010 to February 2011 (£)*	*May 2009 to February 2010 (£)*	*Percentage reduction*
Ministerial Car	89,361.60	527,081.74	83

	Period		
Expenditure category	*May 2010 to February 2011 (£)*	*May 2009 to February 2010 (£)*	*Percentage reduction*
Train	7,405.22	26,952.43	73
Bus	0.00	0.00	n/a
Commercial Aircraft	9,001.25	11,967.73	25
Private Aircraft	0.00	0.00	n/a
Total	105,768.07	566,001.90	81

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52808]

Chris Grayling: The Department provides paid summer internships to students from under-represented groups to encourage them to apply for the civil service Fast Stream. The Fast Stream is the civil service graduate development programme and the purpose of the Summer Internship programme is to encourage students from ethnic minorities and those from under-represented socio-economic backgrounds to gain experience of working in stretching assignments that will prepare them to apply for the Fast Stream when they have graduated.

The Department will also be offering paid internships through the Whitehall Internship Programme announced as part of the Social Mobility Strategy. To complement the existing Fast Stream Summer Diversity Internships two new schemes will be piloted in summer 2011 and are targeted at students from under-represented groups including Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority communities and people from socially disadvantaged backgrounds:

at sixth-form college level, providing placements to Year 12 students to increase professional experience and workplace skills, and

at secondary school level, running day-long programmes within Whitehall, providing an opportunity for students to meet Ministers and senior civil servants.

As part of the Government's Get Britain Working Work Experience initiative the Department is looking to offer a number of eligible young people short-term work experience. Initial advice to candidates on the programme will be provided by their Jobcentre Plus adviser. When people start with us we will provide a structured induction with advice and support which will help them settle into the Department and the working environment.

There are no other specific programmes in the Department for work experience or for people to work as volunteers but there may, on occasions, be local opportunities for short spells of work experience. In such cases advice and guidance to participants would be specific to the individuals and roles involved.

Everyone who works in the Department, in whatever capacity, is subject to baseline security checks and will receive any essential training as is appropriate to their role.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many responses he has received to his Department's consultation document on the reform of disability living allowance. [55928]

Maria Miller: We consulted on the reform of disability living allowance from 6 December 2010 to 18 February 2011. We had a large response to the public consultation, receiving over 5,000 individual responses and over 500 responses from representative organisations.

We published our response to the consultation on 4 April 2011. The full response can be viewed at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51409]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

Recruitment agency fees

DWP spent £11.3 million on recruitment agency fees in 2009-10 which is the last year a full 12 months figures are available.

Outplacement agency fees

DWP spent £893 on outplacement agency fees in 2009-10 which is the last year a full 12 months figures are available.

The service provides advice and support for employees who are considering applying for voluntary redundancy, or have had an application accepted.

Staff training

DWP spent £18.7 million on staff training in 2009-10 which is the last year a full 12 months figures are available.

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of recipients of employment and support allowance there would be in the *(a)* work related activity group and *(b)* assessment phase (i) with and (ii) without time-limiting in place for each financial year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [55205][1]

Chris Grayling: The first table shows the estimated future recipients of contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) in the work related activity group (WRAG) with and without time-limiting in force.

Contributory ESA caseload in the WRAG

	With time-limiting in force	*Without time-limiting in force*
2011-12	200,000	200,000
2012-13	260,000	400,000
2013-14	200,000	590,000
2014-15	160,000	730,000
2015-16	40,000	720,000

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1. *[Official Report, 21 June 2011, Vol. 530, c. 1MC.]*

The second table shows the estimated future recipients of contributory ESA in the assessment phase with and without time-limiting in force.

Contributory ESA caseload in the assessment phase

	With time-limiting in force	*Without time-limiting in force*
2011-12	180,000	180,000
2012-13	110,000	190,000
2013-14	180,000	190,000
2014-15	170,000	180,000
2015-16	160,000	170,000

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10,000 claimants and are based on Budget 2011 forecasts for the ESA time-limiting proposal. Caseloads for contributory ESA have been given as people on income-related ESA or credits-only ESA will be unaffected by the time limiting proposal.

For those who leave the contributory ESA as a result of the time limit, it is estimated that around 60%, or approximately 400,000 people by 2015-16, are expected to be fully or partially compensated by income-related ESA, so will retain entitlement to ESA. And those who don't qualify for income-related ESA may remain on ESA on a credits-only basis.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of contributory employment and support allowance claimants in *(a)* the work-related activity group and *(b)* the assessment phase who would, in a steady-state without time-limiting, have a duration of 12 months or more. [55206]

Chris Grayling: It is estimated that in steady state, without time-limiting, around 77% of contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants in the work-related activity group or assessment phase would have duration of 12 months or more. This breaks down as 94% of contributory ESA claimants in the work-related activity group and 6% of contributory ESA claimants in the assessment phase.

For those who leave contributory ESA as a result of the time limit, it is estimated that around 60%, or approximately 400,000 people, are expected to be fully or partially compensated by income-related ESA, so will retain entitlement to ESA.

Employment Schemes

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the new Work programme contractors his Department estimates are planning to sub-contract to voluntary sector organisations in *(a)* Glasgow North West constituency, *(b)* Glasgow city, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* the UK. [52740]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme competition is still under way with post tender discussions being undertaken with preferred bidders. Contracts have not yet been signed and the information requested, therefore, cannot be provided at this time. When contracts have been signed, further information, including details of the prime contractors and their subcontractors, will be published on the Contracts Finder website as part of the ongoing commitment to the Transparency agenda.

However, there are 57 third sector organisations within the supply chains of the preferred bidders within the Contract Package Area covering the constituencies inquired about. Nationally there are over 300 first-tier third sector organisations. In addition, there is a significant number of organisations providing ad hoc support as customer requirements dictate.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account his Department took of *(a)* price and *(b)* previous performance in the assessment of bids for contracts for the Work programme. [52742]

Chris Grayling: The Department assessed all tenders for the Work programme mini competitions from the Framework for the Provision of Employment Related Support Services against the published evaluation criteria, this was based both on quality, including performance, and financial aspects of the tenders. The evaluation was conducted without prejudice based entirely on the evidence contained within the tenders.

The preferred bidders were publicly announced on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender in each contract package area, i.e. those that, in the opinion of DWP, offered the optimum combination of quality, financial capacity and acceptable level of risk.

Employment: Private Sector

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the sustainability of the increase in the level of private sector employment which took place during the quarter to February 2011; and if he will make a statement. [54077]

Chris Grayling: The Government's aim is to achieve lasting growth in employment by tackling the deficit, improving the competitiveness of the economy and encouraging the growth of new businesses.

Private sector employment rose 77,000 in November 2010-January 2011 compared to the previous quarter. This continues the recent trend that has seen it rise in each of the last four quarters and by 428,000 over the last year as a whole. The latest Office for Budget Responsibility forecast is for market based employment to rise by around 1.3 million between 2010 and 2015.

Health: Young People

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what benefits are available to 16 to 18-year-olds with long-term health conditions who are *(a)* in employment, *(b)* unable to work as a result of their condition, *(c)* seeking work and *(d)* in education. [52748]

Maria Miller: The following table summarises which benefits may be available to people in the four groups quoted in the question:

	Benefits available to 16 to 18-year-olds with long-term health conditions who are:			
	(a) in employment	*(b) unable to work as a result of their condition*	*(c) seeking work*	*(d) in full-time education*
Working tax credit	Yes	—	—	—
Employment and support allowance	—	Yes	—	—
Disability living allowance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jobseekers allowance	—	—	Yes	—
Income support	—	—	—	Yes

Working tax credit is designed to remove barriers to work and to top up earnings of working people on low to moderate incomes. People with children or a disability can claim it from age 16, provided they work at least 16 hours a week. Others must be aged 25 and work 30 or more hours a week to qualify. This reflects the fact that people without children or a disability face fewer barriers to work and should, therefore, be expected to work more hours per week than those with children or a disability.

Employment and support allowance (ESA) is payable to people aged 16 to 65 whose ability to work is limited by ill-health or disability, subject to other qualifying conditions being met. ESA has both contributory and income-related elements; entitlement to contributory ESA is linked to a person's national insurance record with income-related ESA providing a means tested level of support.

Disability living allowance is a cash benefit for children and adults with long-term impairments, which contributes towards the extra costs associated with their disability. It can be paid whether the recipient is in employment, unable to work as a result of their condition, seeking work or in education. It is not means tested and does not require a record of national insurance contributions.

Young people under 18, who are available for work and training, can get jobseeker's allowance in certain situations—in particular if the young person would suffer severe hardship if the allowance were not paid. Under this power, all the individual circumstances of the young person are taken into account and it is therefore an effective safety net for those young people who are the most vulnerable. The young person will need to meet certain labour market rules and register with Connexions.

Certain groups of young people who are still in relevant education can claim income support. These include lone parents and those who are still in full time non-advanced education (up to A Level/NVQ Level3 and equivalents) but estranged from their parents or those acting as their parents for reasons of abuse or family breakdown.

Housing: Benefit

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Denbighshire were in receipt of housing benefit in each of the last five years. [54922]

Steve Webb: The number of people in Denbighshire local authority who were in receipt of housing benefit in each of the last five years is as follows:.

Table 1: Housing benefit recipients in Denbighshire local authority (LA) as at February 2007

	Caseload
February 2007	6,000

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Quarterly aggregate clerical "stock count" returns were replaced by monthly electronic "individual level" scans from SHBE. The final quarterly return was for August 2007 and the first monthly data from SHBE was November 2008.
4. The February 2007 data have been used in this instance, in order to provide a closer time-series with the later SHBE data.
Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly data—100% data taken in February 2007

Table 2: Housing benefit recipients in Denbighshire local authority (LA) as at the dates shown

	Caseload
November 2008	6,520
January 2009	6,610
January 2010	7,270
January 2011	7,640

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns.
4. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and January 2011 is the most recent available.
5. Data from SHBE incorporate the local authority changes from 1 April 2009.
6. These figures are available from the Department's tabulation tool at:
http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?paae=tabtool
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Industrial Accidents: Eyesight

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the policy of the Health and Safety Commission is on investigation by the Health and Safety Executive of each industrial accident that results in the permanent blinding of one or both eyes. [55081]

Chris Grayling: HSE policy is to select for potential investigation all work-related permanent blinding injuries that are reportable under the Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. The decision to investigate is made on a case-by-case basis and will depend upon whether any investigation is practical, there are reasonably practicable precautions that could have been taken to prevent the incident or other priorities take precedence.

Jobcentre Plus

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department monitors the effectiveness of Jobcentre Plus centres in providing long-term employment. [55432]

Chris Grayling: DWP monitor the effectiveness of Jobcentre Plus via a range of performance mechanisms, including performance against the Cabinet Office Structural Reform Plan and its own internal Performance Management Framework.

The main measure of Jobcentre Plus performance is the rate at which people leave jobseeker's allowance, income support and employment and support allowance and move into employment. The measure supports the Department for Work and Pensions 2011-15 business plan and the coalition Government's structural reform priorities. Jobcentre Plus provides regular monthly progress and performance reports to the Department and Ministers, and makes performance data available to the public through the DWP website.

For the very large numbers of Jobcentre Plus customers, it is not cost effective or appropriate to routinely monitor what happens to them after they have been successful in finding work. Jobcentre Plus has mechanisms in place to help identify those customers who return quickly to benefit and who experience difficulties remaining in work. The Department also undertakes a range of evaluation activity of its programmes to assess the impact on long-term employment.

From June, we will implement the Work Programme where customers at most risk of longer dependency on welfare will receive additional help and support delivered through private companies. Work programme providers will receive additional financial rewards for achieving job outcomes which are sustained.

Jobcentre Plus: Crimes of Violence

Mr Darling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many assaults occurred at Jobcentre Plus establishments and their predecessor benefit offices in each year from 1997 to 2010. [54039]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many assaults occurred at Jobcentre Plus establishments and their predecessor benefit offices in each year from 1997 to 2010. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus works hard to mitigate all Health and Safety risks and whilst no assault is acceptable, it is important to review these figures in context—Jobcentre Plus staff are involved in around 60m face to face meetings with clients every year and any incident should be viewed in light of this fact. Jobcentre Plus has a robust Risk Assessment methodology to deal with this volume of customer interactions, with suitable and sufficient control measures in place to manage the majority of those contacts. The majority of incidents reported are verbal. Jobcentre Plus employs approximately 73,000 staff. It takes the safety of staff very seriously. For this reason, it encourages staff to report all incidents of unacceptable customer behaviour. Where incidents do occur we provide support through our Employee Assistance Programme. All incidents are also investigated so that, if appropriate, lessons can be learned.

The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the table below. This information is not available for years prior to the inception of Jobcentre Plus and includes incidents involving Customer Care Officers (CCO) who are employed under contract by Group 4 Securitas.

All figures are reported in operational years rather than calendar years.

	Verbal assault	*Attempted assault*	*Actual assault*	*Unknown*	*Total*
2005-06	8,800	1,180	360	720	11,060
2006-07	13,330	1,130	480	540	15,480
2007-08	14,300	1,230	440	250	16,220
2008-09	13,340	1,010	420	240	15,010
2009-10	12,340	820	340	210	13,710

Due to the phased nature of the rollout of the Jobcentre Plus organisation, the information provided is from April 2005, when the capture of information became uniform across the business.

The information has been collated from Department of Work and Pensions Accident and Assault Database (AAD) and have been rounded to the nearest 10. Please note that the data supplied are derived from unpublished management information which was collected for internal Departmental use only, and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people whose claim for Support for Mortgage Interest ceased as a consequence of the rules on the two year limit on awards in each month of 2011 to date. [51376]

Steve Webb: We do not have an estimate of the number of people whose Support for Mortgage Interest has ceased as a result of the two-year limit.

We carried out a scan of the jobseeker's allowance payment system in January to identify those claimants with a two-year limit date for Support for Mortgage Interest to March 2012. The scan identified the following numbers of claimants to date:

	Claimants with a two-year limit date
2011	
January	192
February	279
March	302
April	386

It is important to note that these figures do not represent the number of claimants whose Support for Mortgage Interest has stopped. Those figures will be lower than the numbers in the table because a proportion of the claimants identified will have left benefit, for example, to move into work.

National Insurance

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were *(a)* issued and *(b)* current in each year since 2007. [53421]

Chris Grayling: The figures for the number of national insurance numbers (NINos) registered in each year since 2007 is in the following table.

NINo registrations

Period	*Total (million)*
2007-08	1.4
2008-09	1.5
2009-10	[1]1.4

[1] Around.

Notes:

1. Figures are for all NINo registrations in the UK (including Northern Ireland).
2. Period refers to the annual reporting period (1 April to 31 March) and the date the NINo was registered on NPS.
3. HM Revenue and Customs no longer undertake a full scan of NINos registered to UK nationals. The figure provided is an estimated figure for overall NINo registrations, based on the number of NINo cards issued.

Source:

100% extract from HM Revenue and Customs National Insurance and PAYE (NPS) system.

Information is not available for the number of current national insurance numbers in each year since 2007. However, the latest available figures (February 2011) shows a total of 83.36 million national insurance number (NINo) records on DWP's Customer Information System (CIS). These consist of:

63.73 million live NINo accounts

19.63 million NINo accounts with a date of death applied.

Once a NINo is allocated it needs to remain on the Department's computer system. This is because the NINo provides a permanent numerical link between the individual and their national insurance contribution record, which determines entitlement to contributory benefits and state pension. In the case of deceased individuals, a partner may make a claim for a contributory benefit, which is dependant on the contribution record of the deceased individual.

Pension Credit

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the operation of the new housing element of state pension credit. [55728]

Steve Webb: In the Welfare Reform Bill, we are taking powers to introduce a housing credit within pension credit and the intention is that this will operate on broadly similar lines to the current rules that apply in housing benefit. Detailed arrangements are still under consideration.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any future recipients of welfare payments to couples where one person is above the qualifying age for state pension credit and their partner is entitled to universal credit will be worse off under the system proposed in the Welfare Reform Bill; and if he will make a statement. [55832]

Steve Webb: In the Welfare Reform Bill, we are taking powers to restrict access to pension credit for couples so that couples with one member below the qualifying age for pension credit will be required to claim universal credit if they need support through the benefits system.

We believe it wholly appropriate that people below the pension credit qualifying age should receive the support that will be available through universal credit to encourage and enable work. We are still considering the support that will be available for couples in this position. However, we also recognise that it is important not to undermine the stability and outcomes for existing pension credit customers, so the change will only apply to new claims and not to couples already in receipt of pension credit.

Sick Leave

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the contribution to meeting his Department's planned efficiency savings which will be made by reducing sickness absence. [51718]

Chris Grayling: No financial estimate of the contribution of reducing sickness absence to the Department's efficiency plans has been made. However, the Department has a strong track record in reducing sickness to increase the resource available to deliver public services, and strives to continually improve its performance in this area, having reduced sickness absence from a level of 11.1 days per employee per year in March 2007 to 8.1 days per employee per year currently.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many fines were issued for benefit fraud in each year since 2006; and how much was received from such fines in each such year. [53368]

Chris Grayling: Fines for benefit fraud can be issued only by the courts and are managed by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service.

However, the Department does have the power to issue administrative penalties as a punishment for benefit fraud, which are similar to fines. The following tables provide information on the number of administrative penalties issued and the amount that has been recovered from these penalties:

	Number of administrative penalties issued
2006-07	9,810
2007-08	8,566
2008-09	7,160
2009-10	7,249

Note:

Data are not yet available for 2010-11.

Source:

Fraud and Error by Sector (FIBS) and Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System (FRAIMS). The figures are Management Information (MI) collected for the purpose of routine administration, and therefore have not been subjected to the rigorous quality assurance that is applied to DWP official statistics.

	Total recoveries from administrative penalties (£ million)
2008-09	1.8
2009-10	1.7
2010-11	1.6

Note:
Data on the amount recovered prior to 2008-09 are not available.
Source:
The figures provided are from Shared Services Debt Manager via Business Objects computer system and are subject to rounding. The figures are Management Information (MI) collected for the purpose of routine administration, and therefore have not been subjected to the rigorous quality assurance that is applied to DWP official statistics.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect of the cap on benefit entitlement on the financial incentives and disincentives for couples comprising two lone parents to live apart in separate households. [53716]

Chris Grayling: No assessment has been made of the likely effect of the cap on benefit entitlement on the financial incentives and disincentives for couples comprising two lone parents to live apart in separate households.

Our introduction of universal credit will reduce the couple penalty for many low income couples, particularly single earner couples. It will provide an enhanced earnings disregard which, along with the reduced taper, will allow couples to keep more of their income in work. Couples will also receive the higher personal allowance available in the current out-of-work benefits within their universal credit to ensure they are not disadvantaged relative to working single people.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the likely change in the number of people eligible to receive a state pension in each of the next 10 years. [55284]

Steve Webb: The following table presents projections of the UK population above state pension age under the currently legislated state pension age timetable and that proposed in the Pensions Bill 2011.

	Pensions Act 2007 timetable	*Pensions Bill 2011 timetable*
2011	12,178,000	12,178,000
2012	12,279,000	12,279,000
2013	12,362,000	12,362,000
2014	12,416,000	12,416,000
2015	12,460,000	12,460,000
2016	12,493,000	12,458,000
2017	12,527,000	12,403,000
2018	12,561,000	12,348,000
2019	12,601,000	12,137,000
2020	12,686,000	12,019,000

Note:
Projections rounded to the nearest 1,000. These projections, based on ONS' 2008 UK principal population projections, do not include estimates of overseas claims and possible deferral or non take-up of state pension.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Elections

Helen Jones: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what consideration he has given to bringing forward proposals to ensure that returning officers meet agreed standards in the *(a)* organisation and *(b)* timing of election counts; and if he will make a statement. [55815]

Mr Harper: Under provisions in the Electoral Administration Act 2006, the Electoral Commission has determined and published performance standards for returning officers who are responsible for the conduct of elections, including the arrangements for the counting of votes.

The Electoral Commission's performance standards for returning officers cover a range of areas in relation to the delivery of elections, including ensuring that returning officers have sufficient skills and knowledge to carry out their statutory duties, have developed robust planning processes for an election and provide appropriate training for all staff used at an election, which will be of relevance to the returning officer's function in relation to the counting of votes.

The commission advised in their assessment of returning officers' performance at the 2010 general election that they were encouraged both by the overall level of performance against the standards, and the willingness of returning officers and their teams to use the performance standards framework as a basis for continued improvement. The commission found that 95% of returning officers met or exceeded all three of the standards relating to 'planning and organisation' ('skills and knowledge of the returning officer', 'planning' and 'training') and 98% either met or exceeded the first standard relating to 'skills and knowledge' of the returning officer.

We look forward to the commission's reports for the 2011 referendum and elections.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Taxation

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated assessing any correlation between levels of business taxation and private sector investment in (i) research and development and (ii) new technology. [55987]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has not commissioned any research assessing the correlation between overall levels of business taxation and private sector investment in research and development (R&D) or new technology. The impact of the tax regime on business decisions is a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In November 2010, a qualitative report jointly commissioned by BIS and HM Revenue and Customs looking at the impact of R&D tax credits on businesses' processes for making decisions on R&D was published. This report found that for the businesses interviewed R&D tax credits had little effect on decisions to conduct individual projects but that they did increase the overall amount of research and development conducted.

Exports: United Arab Emirates

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many export licences have been granted to AssetCo plc for the sale of equipment to the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for use by the *(a)* army, *(b)* police and *(c)* fire service in the UAE in the last five years for which figures are available. [54831]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member for Leyton and Wanstead to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Islington North (Jeremy Corbyn) on 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1190W.

Green Investment Bank

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date he applied for EU state aid approval for the creation of the Green Investment Bank. [54369]

Mr Prisk: The UK has begun the process of engaging with the EU Commission over the Green Investment Bank proposals to ensure their compatibility with the state aid provisions in the EU treaty. We expect substantive pre-notification discussions will take place over the summer with the aim of submitting a formal state aid notification later this year.

Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of his Department's employees work out of premises in the London borough of Havering. [55231]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills currently has no employees located in premises in the London borough of Havering.

Higher Education: Admissions

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the right hon. Member for Bermondsey (Simon Hughes) and Old Southwark on the implications of his proposals for off-quota university places. [55646]

Mr Willetts: Both the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and I have had a number of discussions on how we assure fair access. Core to our principles for considering options for enabling off-quota recruitment is to ensure that all places would comply with the principles of fair access without any reduction in entry standards. I have not yet discussed specific off-quota options with my right hon. Friend the Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark but we have discussed the numbers of applicants that in recent years have been unable to secure a place at university.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether public schools will be able to sponsor off-quota places in universities under his proposals; and if he will make a statement. [55649]

Mr Willetts: We want to make it easier for employers and charities to sponsor students at universities, and to create a greater incentive for universities to set up sponsorship arrangements by allowing sponsored places to be additional to their student number allocations. We will only consider options that uphold the principle that admission to university must be on ability to learn, not on ability to pay. That is why any such scheme would need to comply with the conditions that the principles of fair access must apply, there would need to be genuine additional places, and there would be no reduction in entrance standards.

Therefore it is clearly not the intention that independent schools should be able to sponsor places for their own pupils and after consultation we will ensure that there is a framework in place to prevent this.

Higher Education: Reading Berkshire

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of schools in Reading West constituency sent at least one pupil to the university of *(a)* Oxford and *(b)* Cambridge in each of the last 13 years. [55721]

Mr Willetts: Information has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and is shown in the following table.

Schools in Reading West with applicants accepted to full-time undergraduate courses at Oxford university or university of Cambridge via UCAS

	Schools with acceptances			
	Oxford university		*University of Cambridge*	
Year of entry	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2001	3	33	1	11
2002	3	43	0	0
2003	1	14	0	0
2004	2	29	0	0
2005	0	0	1	17
2006	1	13	2	25
2007	1	13	1	13
2008	2	25	1	13
2009	2	29	1	14
2010	2	25	1	13

Source:
UCAS.

Schools have been identified as those with a postcode in the Reading West parliamentary constituency. The figures cover schools classed by UCAS as comprehensive, grammar, independent and other secondary schools in England. Other kinds of centres have not contributed to this analysis. Only schools from which UCAS received applications in the cycle concerned have contributed to the proportion calculation. Figures do not account for students accepted to Oxford or Cambridge who applied directly, rather than via UCAS.

Detailed data on applications via secondary schools are only available from 2001. Data for earlier years have not been provided as the necessary reference data is not available.

Office of Fair Trading

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of resources available to the Office of Fair Trading to carry out the investigations that the Head of that Office considers necessary. [55417]

Mr Davey: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is a non-ministerial Government Department and secures its budget allocation via the HM Treasury-led spending review process. As required by the spending review 2010 (SR10), the OFT submitted its plans for delivering its objectives within a reduced budget. The OFT's SR10 settlement was announced in October 2010. The OFT's budget for 2011-12 was set at £56 million. Internally, the OFT has allocated available resources in line with its published annual plan.

Regional Development Agencies: Redundancy Pay

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the calculation of redundancy pay for staff of regional development agencies in circumstances where there is a previous continuous service with a local authority employer; and what discretion he may exercise over the way in which such payments are determined. [55173]

Mr Prisk: Regional development agency (RDA) staff are covered by the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS) as amended on 22 December 2010. The RDAs are also covered by the Redundancy Payments (Continuity of Employment in Local Government, etc.) (Modification) Order 1999.

Where a local authority employee was transferred into an RDA under TUPE regulations, at the time of redundancy the RDA would pay the individual the better of:

(a) his redundancy entitlement under CSCS terms for the period of employment with the RDA only;

(b) redundancy entitlement under the terms of previous employment with the local authority for the full period of his continuous service with the local authority and the RDA; or

(c) redundancy entitlement under any other terms reflecting a ministerial undertaking given at the point of transfer.

Where a local authority employee joined an RDA voluntarily, at the time of redundancy the RDA would pay the individual the better of either (a) above; or the redundancy entitlement under statutory redundancy terms for the full period of continuous service with the local authority and the RDA. I have no authority to exercise discretion over the way redundancy payments are calculated.

Space: Industry

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contribution the funding allocated to science centres in the 2011 Budget will make to the space industry. [55792]

Mr Willetts: Of the £100 million additional investment in science announced in the Budget, £10 million was earmarked to accelerate the development of the International Space Innovation Centre with the start of a National Space Technology Programme with industry.

Students: Fees and Charges

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the potential effect of changes to higher education tuition fees on the ability of graduates to secure a mortgage. [55775]

Mr Willetts: The Council for Mortgage Lenders have advised that a student loan is very unlikely to materially impact on an individual's ability to get a mortgage. The reduction in net income as a result of loan repayment results in a commensurate reduction in the amount a mortgage lender is willing to lend. That is one reason why our proposal to increase the repayment threshold from £15,000 to £21,000 reduces the amount borrowers need to repay each month, and therefore increases the amount of net monthly income available to them which could be helpful to them when applying for a mortgage.

Students: Loans

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what prominence he plans to give to information on the absence of any requirements for students to pay tuition fees upfront in his recently announced advertising campaign relating to student loans. [55942]

Mr Willetts: The Department considers it essential to ensure that prospective students and their families know about the full package of support available, to support access to higher education. One of the key messages for the campaign is that students will not have to pay up front. This message features in both our radio and digital advertising.

Technology and Innovation Centres

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 715W, on innovation, with which centres funded by regional development agencies his Department has had direct contact in the course of its consideration of the future of such centres. [55755]

Mr Willetts: The Department has in recent times invested significant funding in a number of centres via the Strategic Investment Fund. These centres include the National Renewable Energy Centre, Wave Hub, the Centre for Process Innovation, and the National Composites Centre, and these have been the primary focus of our direct discussions. Officials across this Department also have formal and informal contacts with a number of centres in the context of their work although there is no formal record of these interactions.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 17 May 2011

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Casualties

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice his Department provides for service personnel in respect of the preparations of their wills prior to operational duties overseas. [55908]

Mr Robathan: At least three months prior to a deployment all service personnel are briefed by their Chain of Command on the benefits of having a will, as well as a Lasting Power of Attorney. This powerful legal document gives another person or persons the power to make decisions with regard to service person's financial affairs and/or their health and personal welfare. These can be drawn up privately, in advance of a deployment, and can be revoked at any time.

Service personnel are advised that wills can be drawn up privately or by use of a Ministry of Defence (MOD) Will Form (Form 106). Complete MOD Will Forms can be stored at the Wills Library in Glasgow at no cost to the individual.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of armed forces personnel and their dependants who will be affected as a result of changes to public sector pensions uprating; and if he will make a statement. [55655]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 16 May 2011]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 570, to the right hon. Member for Delyn (Mr Hanson).

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people aged under 21 in each year group were recruited to each of the armed services in each month since the date of the Strategic Defence and Security Review; and for how long on average the people in each group have signed up to serve. [55050]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is provided in the following table.

	2010			*2011*			
Service and age group	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*
Naval Service							
16	4	7	3	5	2	1	3
17	17	27	1	16	5	7	3
18	28	53	9	18	4	7	3
19	20	43	8	23	9	6	0
20	19	42	11	23	6	2	3
Army							
16	116	71	0	175	0	85	58
17	115	33	0	139	35	94	91
18	136	112	0	102	95	93	86
19	123	99	0	90	83	98	85
20	110	97	0	85	77	85	81
RAF							
16	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
17	1	6	3	5	1	5	3
18	14	3	0	7	7	13	11
19	11	10	0	14	6	13	14
20	14	12	0	17	3	9	7

While in all three services personnel sign up to a specific engagement or commission, they are permitted to resign from their service before the end of this period provided they have completed a minimum return of service. In the Naval Service the initial commitment for Royal Navy Ratings is 18 years, Royal Marine Other Ranks is four years and Royal Navy Officers is 12 years. In the Army, Other Ranks enter an engagement of 12 years and Officers are given three years service from the date of commissioning with the option to extend once they receive a positive annual report. In the RAF, Airmen sign for an engagement of nine years and RAF Officers sign a permanent commission of 18 years reckonable service or until they reach the age of 40. The commitments above are general and may differ depending upon which trade or specialty is joined.

Chinook Helicopters

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the *(a)* first and *(b)* last Chinook HC.6 helicopter to be delivered into service. [55523]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence is currently in discussion with Boeing in preparation for the main investment decision point for the 12 new and two replacement Chinooks announced as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

However, the main investment decision has not yet been made and the delivery schedule will not be set until the contract is signed. We will announce any significant procurement decisions to Parliament in the usual way.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to cease to fund any of its functions over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [55190]

Dr Fox: The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) set out the functions and capabilities that will be needed to meet future challenges and achieve success on operations in line with the National Security Strategy while also dealing with the deficit in the Defence budget. The spending review set out the resources allocated to Defence to implement the SDSR. This resulted in reductions in a combination of older or non-essential capabilities, such as the Harrier GR9, Nimrod MRA4 and certain frigates, to focus resources on the highest priority capabilities and functions core to the adaptable force posture set out in the SDSR.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the unit cost of a UK *(a)* air to surface missile, *(b)* air to air missile, *(c)* ship to surface missile and *(d)* ship to air missile of the type deployed by UK forces in Libya. [53340]

Peter Luff: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House, but I refer him to the answer I gave on 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 569W, to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland (Tom Blenkinsop) in respect of Storm Shadow.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to Gordon Banks:

UK forces have not fired air-to-air or surface-to-air missiles as part of Operation ELLAMY. The gross book values of each of the air-to-surface missiles fired by our forces from the start of recent operations over Libya up to 24 April 2011 are: Storm Shadow £790,000 and Dual Mode Seeker (DMS) Brimstone £175,000. Our stock of Brimstone was procured from 2004 as single mode missiles and subsequently enhanced to dual mode, under a separate contract, from 2008. Equivalent values for each of the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM) Block III and TLAM Block IV surface-to-surface missiles fired over the same period are £1,100,000 and £870,000 respectively. All of the figures are inclusive of VAT.

In addition, as I said in the answer I gave on 4 April 2011, Official Report, column 569W to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland (Tom Blenkinsop), the value of Storm Shadow missiles, contracted for in 1997, includes the cost of producing an integrated weapon system and not just the purchase cost of the missile. The same is also true of Dual Mode Seeker Brimstone.

Enhanced Paveway II and Paveway IV guided bombs have also been released over Libya, but I am withholding their current gross book values as this information is commercially sensitive and its disclosure would prejudice the commercial interests of the contractor.

Finally, the Ministry of Defence now takes a portfolio approach to procuring new Complex Weapons. This approach was launched in April 2010 and will secure significant efficiencies across the breadth of the Complex Weapons portfolio over the next 10 years and beyond, and is designed to meet the UK's military requirements and safeguard our sovereign capability.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in the middle east. [55503]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Armed Forces, my hon. Friend the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), on 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 9, to the hon. Member for Central Devon (Mel Stride).

Military Aircraft: Costs

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost per hour of using the *(a)* Harrier, *(b)* GR4 Tornado and *(c)* Apache in close air support operations was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [55196]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 12 May 2011]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the answer the Minister for the Armed Forces, my hon. Friend the Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) gave on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 75W.

Nuclear Power Stations: Security

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of capability of terrorist organisations to mount an attack on a UK nuclear power plant; and what arrangements are in place to prevent such an attack. [56152]

Charles Hendry: I have been asked to reply.

The level of threat posed from a terrorist attack to UK civil nuclear sites is taken very seriously and is regularly assessed by relevant Government organisations, including the industry's security regulator, the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

While it is not Government policy to comment on the detail of operational security matters at individual civil nuclear sites, security arrangements are kept under constant review as part of a continuous process to ensure that existing arrangements are robust and effective.

Nuclear Submarines

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proposals he has made to his French counterpart on the future joint development of ship submersible ballistic nuclear fleets. [55423]

Peter Luff: We have, with our French colleagues, identified a number of potential areas for cooperation around submarine enterprise management and some specific equipments and technologies. Detailed proposals will be put to national authorities for consideration and agreement, taking account of extant international agreements and obligations.

USA: Military Bases

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has provided funding for any development on US military bases in Great Britain in the last five years. [55528]

Mr Robathan: The US authorities are responsible for bearing the cost of any development, unless that development is a requirement of UK legislation or Ministry of Defence (MOD) policy and there is no equivalent United States legal or policy requirement, in which case the costs fall to the UK MOD.

In the last five years the MOD has provided some £1.4 million in funding for such development.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Legal Opinion

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the amount received in fines paid as a result of legal action arising from the work by her Department's legal team in each of the last five years. [55460]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* The amount of fines paid as a result of legal action arising from the work by the Department's legal team in each of the last four years is as follows:

	£
2007-08	116,645
2008-09	28,300
2009-10	49,055
2010-11	72,825

The information for 2006-07 is not readily available and the cost to obtain the information would be disproportionate.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the potential effects of the closure of her Department's legal team on the Department's work on *(a)* pollution control, *(b)* animal welfare, *(c)* forestry, *(d)* nature conservation and *(e)* animal disease emergencies. [55498]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* The Department has no plans to close its legal team, but it is currently considering options for its future structure. No detrimental effect on any of the work areas listed is anticipated as a result of those proposals, should they go ahead.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice her Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in her Department. [52818]

Richard Benyon: All interns who join the Department now need to come via the Cabinet Office Summer Internship Schemes.

Advice to those wishing to undertake either interim, work experience or volunteer work directs them, therefore towards the Cabinet Office Whitehall Internship programmes.

Flood Control

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* homes, *(b)* business premises and *(c)* individuals resident in areas which would have been protected by flood defence schemes which have now been (i) cancelled and (ii) postponed; [55345]

(2) what flood defence schemes in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area have been (i) cancelled and (ii) postponed as a result of reductions in spending on flood defence. [55346]

Richard Benyon: No flood defence schemes have been cancelled and any scheme not progressing this year will be subject to reforms to the way funding is allocated to flood and coastal defence projects. We recently consulted on these reforms and I will make an announcement in due course.

We still expect to be able to deliver better protection to at least 145,000 households by March 2015.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the effects of its planned reductions in flood defence spending on *(a)* insurance premium costs, *(b)* insurance excess payments for home and business owners and *(c)* the civil engineering supply chain. [55347]

Richard Benyon: The working groups that were established after last year's flood summit are establishing a roadmap beyond 2013, when the current Statement of Principles ends.

The Environment Agency is working with the civil engineering supply chain to provide greater certainty over future work and opportunities for greater efficiencies. It is also reviewing its future procurement strategy with the Major Projects Authority.

We recently consulted on reforms to the way in which capital funding is allocated to flood and coastal erosion risk management projects, to encourage total investment to increase beyond levels that are affordable to central Government alone.

Floods: House Insurance

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on provision of flooding cover as a standard element of property insurance following the end of the Statement of Principles. [55138]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is working closely with HM Treasury and the insurance industry to ensure that insurance remains widely available in England after the Statement of Principles ends. Three working groups, including representatives from the Government, the Environment Agency, the insurance industry and other organisations, were established after last year's Flood Summit. One of these groups is looking at a range of potential flood insurance models that will be outlined in an interim report to be published soon.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had with *(a)* the Association of British Insurers, *(b)* the British Insurance Brokers Association and *(c)* insurers on levels of flooding insurance premium costs for property owners who have been affected by flooding. [55139]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is working closely with the Association of British Insurers, the British Insurance Brokers Association and individual insurers through the three working groups that were established after last year's Flood summit.

There is general agreement in these discussions that insurance policies should reflect flood risk, including resilience and damage-limitation efforts by property owners.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had with the Association of British Insurers on flood insurance from 2013. [55140]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is working closely with the Association of British Insurers (ABI) to put in place a roadmap beyond 2013, when the current Statement of Principles ends. The ABI is an active member of the three working groups that were established after last year's Flood summit, which are taking forward the dialogue on flood insurance and risk reduction.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department had made of the number of domestic properties in England at significant risk of flooding which do not have flood insurance. [55171]

Richard Benyon: No estimate has been made of the number of properties at significant risk of flooding that do not have flood insurance cover. Insurers' decisions about providing cover in flood risk areas are guided by the Statement of Principles and are commercially confidential. In addition, some householders may not wish to obtain flood insurance cover.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 604-5, on flood control: finance, what progress she has made in ensuring the continued provision of flood insurance for properties at significant risk of flooding when the Statement of Principles agreement expires in 2013. [55172]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA hosted a flood summit in September 2010 to discuss flood risk management and the challenges involved in flood insurance. Three working groups are now continuing the dialogue on flood insurance and risk reduction and putting in place a road map beyond 2013, when the current Statement of Principles ends. The working groups reported on progress, in March 2011 in an interim report that will be published soon.

Inland Waterways

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on maintaining waterways in the last five years. [55326]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA provides grant in aid funding to its two main navigation authorities for the maintenance of inland waterways in England and Wales. Funding for the last five years is as follows:

£ million

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
British Waterways[1]	55.5	61.6	57.4	51.3	41.5
Environment Agency: Navigation	13.3	14	13	11.5	6.25
Environment Agency: Flood risk management	102	128	131	162	152

[1] Excludes payments made to BW in respect of its national loan fund payments

DEFRA also provides grant in aid funding to the Broads Authority for pursuing their statutory purposes. Additional funding has been included in the national park grant allocation for the Broads Authority to enable progress to be made in implementing its sediment management strategy. The funding in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 was £500,000 per annum. In 2009-10 and 2010-11, this funding was reduced to £400,000 per annum. The total over the five-year period is therefore £2.3 million.

Any additional expenditure incurred by the authority on maintaining the waterways has been funded by tolls.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on the maintenance of British waterways in the last five years. [55327]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA routinely undertakes discussions with British Waterways (BW) on the maintenance of its waterways for navigation at quarterly shareholder meetings, the most recent of which took place in February 2011. The maintenance of BW's waterways is also considered through the process of agreeing its annual corporate plan.

Discussions with the Environment Agency on the maintenance of its waterways for navigation and for flood risk management also take place as part of the corporate planning process and strategic reviews.

Discussions also take place with the Broads Authority on its priorities at regular meetings.

Official Visits

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what visits she has undertaken in an official capacity since 1 January 2011. [55287]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* Since 1 January 2011 the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the right hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has visited the Oxford Farming Conference; a meeting of international environment and agriculture Ministers at Berlin Green Week; the NFU Annual Conference in Birmingham; Derby to attend the regional cabinet; the Lake District National Park and Newton Rigg to launch the Uplands Policy Review; Brussels to attend Environment Council; Budapest to attend Informal Environment Council; the sustainable development aspects at the Olympic Site in London; Brazil for dialogues with her ministerial counterparts; and the construction site for the redevelopment of Blackfriars station.

Recycling: Incentives

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will assess the effects on waste minimisation of introducing cash incentives for recycling; [52957]

(2) if she will assess the potential effects of introducing recycling incentive schemes such as that in Windsor and Maidenhead on meeting the Government's obligations under the revised waste framework directive. [52958]

Richard Benyon: The Government welcome the efforts of all councils who encourage people to do the right thing with their waste, including reducing the amount of waste produced and recycling more. We believe that rewarding or recognising people for what they do is a good way to encourage behaviour change; the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the right hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman) and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), commended the Recyclebank model at Windsor and Maidenhead last year. Schemes like this can help us to meet our revised waste framework directive obligations to reuse or recycle 50% of waste from households by 2020. It will of course be important to understand the impact of reward schemes, in order to help development of future policy. In the Waste Review, we are looking at how to share lessons from innovative ways of rewarding recycling and reuse. We will also be developing a Waste Prevention Programme for England, as required by the revised waste framework directive.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to protect seascapes from adverse effects arising from human activities in the marine environment. [55587]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* The Marine Policy Statement (MPS) provides the framework for the development of marine plans and for decision making, and its adoption in March 2011 was the first stage in rolling out the statutory marine planning systems across UK marine area.

The MPS defines seascapes as

> 'landscapes with views of coasts or seas, and coasts with adjacent marine environment with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other'.

It requires that marine plan authorities take into account the character, quality and how highly valued the seascape is when considering the impact of activities or development in the marine environment.

The Marine Management Organisation have been delegated the responsibility for preparing marine plans in England and have begun developing the first two plans in the east inshore and offshore areas.

Thames Estuary

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department and its agencies have spent on managing the Thames estuary in each of the last five years. [55245]

Richard Benyon: I assume my hon. Friend is referring to costs associated with protecting the Thames estuary from flooding. The Environment Agency maintains the Thames tidal defences along the north and south banks of the Thames estuary. This is from Teddington to the Isle of Grain and Southend-on-Sea. Please see the following breakdown of capital and revenue costs by year and geographical area:

Financial year	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Thames tidal defences (including the Thames barrier) from Teddington to Dartford barrier	16,834,028.00	19,144,856.00	18,243,716.00	26,363,211.71	22,358,106.00
Thames tidal defences from Dartford barrier to Southend-on-Sea (including work at Tilbury and Canvey Island)	3,820,200.00	995,900.00	1,909,700.00	2,377,000.00	2,165,400.00
Thames tidal defences between Dartford Creek barrier and Grain	497,100.00	413,100.00	820,100.00	4,040,100.00	3,274,100.00
Total	21,151,328.00	20,553,856.00	20,973,516.00	32,780,311.00	27,797,606.00

Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of her Department's involvement in the big society initiative. [42667]

Richard Benyon: As part of usual departmental business, all Ministers engage with social enterprise organisations and charities and undertake activities which support the big society initiative.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Offices

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross (John Thurso), representing the House of Commons Commission, when the decision was taken that adjustments or equipment for the offices of hon. Members recommended by medical professionals would not be met from the budget of the House Service; who took this decision; and what consultation was carried out prior to taking the decision. [55786]

John Thurso: The note 'Accommodation standards for Members and their staff located at Westminster', endorsed by the Administration Committee on 8 May 2007, sets out the accommodation and equipment provision available to Members from the Department of Facilities. It specifically envisages meeting special medical requirements for desks and chairs but not for other items.

When the standards were written the House had responsibility for disability assistance for Members and individual aids could be claimed under the House's expenses scheme either under general office expenses or (potentially) under the disability provision. Responsibility for administering Members allowances has been transferred to IPSA. Provision of funding for individual aids falls within the scope of this responsibility.

I understand that officials have written to the hon. Member with further information on this issue.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to cease to fund any of its functions over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [55191]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport continues to promote and support its core functions and values, as confirmed in our business plan, and will reduce its administrative costs by 50% over the spending review period. The Department is also in the process of streamlining its arm's length bodies to facilitate continued delivery of quality culture, media and sport in this country whilst at the same time making efficiency savings. The Secretary of State's press release of the 14 October 2010 provides further details and can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/media_releases/7485.aspx

After completion of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in October 2012, the Department will continue to focus on delivery of the Olympic legacy.

Rugby: World Cup

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to announce details of the financing for the Rugby League World Cup; and if he will make a statement. [56000]

Hugh Robertson: I am in discussions with the Rugby Football League as to how Government can support a successful event of which the country can be proud. As part of this, arrangements will be made to ensure the £1 million of support to be provided by the North West Development Agency to the cost of staging the 2013 Rugby League World cup is paid in full.

Telecommunications: Hearing Impairment

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what definition his Department uses of functional equivalence in relation to relay services for deaf people. [55303]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not look to determine "functional equivalence" in relation to relay services for deaf people. The requirement for equivalence in access to electronic communications is a broad concept and not tied to any particular service.

Further, determination of equivalence in relation to relay matters for deaf people will be a matter for the regulator, Ofcom, under new provisions of the revised EU Electronic Communication Framework. These revisions require member states to ensure that access to, and affordability of, electronic communications services for disabled end-users is equivalent to the level enjoyed by other end-users. Implementation of the revised Framework needs to be completed by 25 May 2011.

Implementation of new Article 23a in the universal service directive will enable Ofcom to specify, where appropriate, requirements to ensure that disabled end-users:

(a) have access to electronic communications services equivalent to that enjoyed by the majority of end-users; and

(b) benefit from the choice of undertakings and services available to the majority of end-users.

In that respect, Ofcom is currently undertaking a review of relay service provision, the objective of which is to assess whether current arrangements for the provision of relay services are adequate in delivering equivalence to voice telephony for hearing and speech impaired end-users (including British sign language users). Ofcom expects to publish a consultation document within the next few weeks and a research report which helps inform the review was published on 4 February and can be read at:

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/telecoms-research/ofcom-relay-services/

However, any decision on relay services will have to be made following a process of review, consultation, cost benefit analysis and a proportionality test.

In addition, Ofcom contributed to the consultation and report published by the Body of European Regulators (BEREC) in February 2011 on "Electronic communications services: Ensuring equivalence in access and choice for disabled end-users" which helps further clarify the distinction between functional equivalence and equivalence of experience.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has made an assessment of *(a)* the possible conversion speed and *(b)* functional equivalence of (i) text relay services, (ii) video relay services and (iii) standard speech. [55304]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has not undertaken any assessment of the possible conversation speeds of, or functional equivalence of, text relay services, video relay services and standard speech.

Ofcom is currently undertaking a review of relay services. The review's objective is to assess whether the current arrangements for the provision of relay services are adequate in delivering equivalence to voice telephony for hearing- and speech-impaired end-users and, if they are not, to consider proportionate solutions. This involves looking at, among other things, the existing text relay service and additional relay services including video relay and captioned telephony.

In June 2009 Ofcom published a report commissioned from independent consultants which gave the following approximate conversation speeds:

	Words per minute
Normal conversation	c. 170
Text relay	c. 30
Captioned telephony	c. 150
Video relay	c. 150

EDUCATION

Adoption

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to encourage adoption. [55514]

Tim Loughton: This Government expect the adoption system to work effectively for all looked-after children who would benefit from this permanent option and all local authorities to perform at the level of the best. I believe that adoption has lost some momentum in recent years. That is why I have started a programme of adoption reform. I have already published revised statutory adoption guidance, written to directors of children's services and lead members setting out my expectations and set up the Ministerial Advisory Group on Adoption to steer the overall programme. At its next meeting, the group will discuss adoption breakdown and how to help ensure that adoptive families are appropriately supported.

I recently published an adoption data pack to support local authorities in delivering improved adoption outcomes and to help them compare their outcomes with those other local authorities. The Department is also funding two important voluntary sector projects to help improve adoption practices and is supporting the British Association for Adoption and Fostering in promoting adoption through national adoption week.

The Government's review of the family justice system and the final report of Professor Munro's review of child protection, published on 10 May, will lead to wider system improvements that will benefit those children in need of adoption.

CAFCASS: Qualifications

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what level of qualification the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service requires for those staff it employs to assess cases. [55976]

Tim Loughton: CAFCASS practitioners are required to have a Diploma in Social Work, or an equivalent recognised by the General Social Care Council. They are also required to have a minimum of three years post-qualifying experience in social work with children and families at risk.

Confederation of British Industry

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many meetings he has had with representatives of the Confederation of British Industry to discuss education and skills policy since his appointment. [55996]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has not had any meetings with representatives of the Confederation of British Industry since his appointment but is meeting John Cridland, CBI Director General, in early June.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55738]

Tim Loughton: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and its predecessors paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against it in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54894]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has concluded that the costs involved in retrieving the information required to respond to this parliamentary question will greatly exceed the disproportionate costs threshold which governs PQs.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56058]

Tim Loughton: The Department currently receives *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services from one supplier and the supplier is Vodafone Ltd.

Departmental Travel

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many first class rail journeys were undertaken by staff in his Department between April 2010 and April 2011; and what the total cost was of such journeys. [53166]

Tim Loughton: Between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011 staff within the Department for Education made 2,094 first class rail journeys costing £265,028.46. However, 70.6% (1,479) of the recorded first class rail journeys were made between 1 April and 30 June 2010. The recorded number of first class rail journeys between 1 January 2011 and 31 March 2011 was 110 (5.2%). First class rail costs have fallen by almost 90% in 2010-11 compared with the previous year (£2,464,222 in 2009-10).

This information is a summary of transactions through the Department's Business Travel booking agent, Carlson Wagonlit Travel. The number of journeys includes both one-way and return travel as the transaction record does not distinguish between the two types of journey. The number of journeys is understated slightly as a very few carnet tickets were procured, allowing multiple journeys from the purchase of a single ticket.

There are clear policy principles guiding this issue and staff are expected to travel standard class except for a very few special circumstances including access to facilities to accommodate disabilities or if it can be demonstrated that a first class ticket is lower cost than standard class. The Secretary of State for Education and other Ministers have a policy of travelling in standard class.

Education: Torbay

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish the results of the review of March 2011 performance data of Torbay council's children's services following the improvement notice. [55785]

Tim Loughton: Torbay council was issued with an improvement notice on 31 January 2011, following an Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and looked-after children's services in October 2010 which found safeguarding services to be inadequate. The improvement notice indicates that

> "a review will be carried out on receipt of performance information relating to March 2011".

A formal meeting will be held between officials from the Department and the council in July 2011 to review progress, using that information and other evidence that will have become available between April and June 2011. That review will be used to inform Ministers of progress and to consider next steps. Subsequent action, including making the outcome of the review available, will be considered at that point.

Foster Care

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the number of young people who have been in foster care who have completed an undergraduate course in the latest period for which figures are available. [55518]

Tim Loughton: Information on the number of young people who have been in foster care who have completed an undergraduate course is not collected centrally.

Schools Sports

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education by what date he expects to announce allocation of funding for the school sport partnership for Crawley constituency. [55165]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has announced that he will not continue to provide ring-fenced funding for school sport partnerships beyond 31 August 2011.

Instead, the Secretary of State is making available £65 million of new funding for schools to enable them to provide more opportunities for competitive sport. This funding will cover the school years 2011/12 and 2012/13 and will pay for one day a week of a secondary PE teacher's time to be spent out of the classroom, encouraging greater take-up of competitive sport in primary schools and securing a fixture network for schools to increase the amount of intra- and inter-school sporting competition. This will include schools in the Crawley constituency.

Further details about this funding will be sent to schools later this term. The first tranche of funding is likely to be passed to secondary schools in September 2011.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Overseas Aid

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of financial aid in respect of infrastructure projects in *(a)* Sierra Leone, *(b)* Niger, *(c)* Mozambique and *(d)* Liberia was directed to local contractors in each of the last two years; how many indigenous companies were contracted to carry out construction work for which his Department allocated funding; how much such funding his Department allocated to infrastructure projects in each of the last two years; and what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) description was of each such project. [55838]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Of the countries listed, the Department for International Development (DFID) has invested in infrastructure projects in Sierra Leone and Mozambique. Information on these projects including the purpose, budget and actual spend has been made available in the Library of the House. Further detail on contractors and companies used, including their national origin cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. Value for money is DFID's fundamental criterion when contracting others.

Departmental Consultants

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* name and *(b)* country of origin is of each consultant engaged by his Department in (i) Sierra Leone, (ii) Liberia, (iii) Mali, (iv) Niger and (v) Mozambique in each year since 2004; and what the (A) monetary value of each contract and (B) nature of activity of each such consultant was. [55524]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) follows strict publicly available criteria to guide its use of consultants, and is committed to transparency. However, providing the detail of information requested over the period since 2004 would incur disproportionate cost.

The Government have committed to publish all new central Government tenders and contracts over £10,000 from January 2011 on the cross Government portal:

http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/?site=1000&lang=en

All contracts issued centrally by DFID are currently being published on this website, subject to exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act relating to, for example, commercially sensitive, or security related disclosures. DFID is also in the process of developing systems to allow contracts issued by our overseas offices for programme work to be published.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55743]

Mr Duncan: In comparison with many other Government Departments, particularly those engaged in delivery of citizen-facing public services in the UK, the Department for International Development (DFID) holds relatively little personal data. Most of the personal data which DFID do hold relate to current and former members of staff and to recipients of pensions paid to former employees of British colonial Governments. Most personal data held by DFID for these functions are stored in the UK or in country offices by DFID itself and in accordance with the Department's organisational data protection policy. Some data relating to staff are transferred on a case by case basis according to business need to third party suppliers, some of whom may be based outside the UK (for example, to make airline reservations or arrange shipments of personal freight to country offices).

DFID has one contract with a supplier for the processing of pension payments to former employees of British colonial Governments overseas. The supplier's payment service is located in the Republic of Ireland. Payments are made in this way to approximately 3,500 recipients. A majority of the recipients of such pensions are likely to be British citizens.

Departmental Work Experience

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what in-country work-based placements his Department's offices have provided to *(a)* undergraduates, *(b)* graduates and *(c)* government officials from (i) Sierra Leone, (ii) Liberia, (iii) Mali, (iv) Niger and (v) Mozambique in each year since 2004. [55525]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development has not undertaken in-country work-based placements for undergraduates, graduates, or government officials, in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali, Niger, or Mozambique, during the period specified.

DFID does employ around 750 locally engaged staff in its network of overseas offices—around 32% of DFID's total staff complement, but it is worth noting that the department does not have offices in Mali, Niger or Liberia. Most of these staff are nationals of the countries in which they work. Increasing numbers of our locally engaged staff are employed in professional advisory or senior administrative roles that are open to graduates or those who have previous experience of working with partner governments or other public sector institutions.

Developing Countries: Education

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what performance indicators his Department plans to use to measure its progress in supporting girls in completing nine years of basic education by the end of 2014. [55465]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) will track completion of a full cycle of primary education as a key indicator in each of our partner countries where we have education programmes.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that education of girls is a departmental priority. [55466]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government are placing girls and women at the centre of our aid programme. All Department for International Development (DFID) education programmes will have a focus on girls and young women. We are working with existing and new development partners to combine general support to education systems with targeted interventions to address girls' drop-out rates and support their transition to lower secondary schooling.

Following a comprehensive review of all UK aid programmes, the Government plan to support at least nine million children in primary school, over half of whom will be girls, and two million children in secondary school by 2014.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many girls does the Department plan to support to complete the nine years of basic education by the end of 2014. [55467]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Following a comprehensive review of all UK aid programmes, the Government plan to support at least nine million children in primary school, over half of whom will be girls, and two million children in secondary school by 2014.

Guyana: Climate Change

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department plans to provide to Guyana to counter the effects of climate change in 2011-12. [56002]

Mr Duncan: Guyana is part of the Department for International Development (DFID)'s Caribbean regional programme, including support to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Guyana also benefits from multilateral and international programmes to which the UK contributes. The European Union, for example, supports sea defence strengthening, mangrove planting and management in Guyana to help counter the effects of sea level rise and storm surges, while the Climate Development and Knowledge Network provides advice and technical assistance on policy and investment decisions to improve resilience to climate change. In 2011-12, Guyana will also benefit from our support to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation. An economic review of the impacts of climate change on Guyana's agriculture, coastal and human settlements and health is also under way with DFID assistance.

Guyana: Floods

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department plans to provide to Guyana in respect of recent floods. [56003]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is not planning to offer any assistance to Guyana for its recovery from the floods of February and March this year. The Government of Guyana have not requested any international assistance to supplement their recovery efforts in affected areas.

We are in regular contact with Guyana's Civil Defence Commission, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Guyana Red Cross regarding the effects of flooding in Guyana. As with other Caribbean countries, we will continue to monitor the effects of natural disasters and respond appropriately when necessary.

Guyana: Overseas Aid

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department plans to provide to Guyana for *(a)* education, *(b)* health care, *(c)* governance and *(d)* environmental protection in 2011-12. [56001]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has a regional programme in the Caribbean focusing on governance and security, wealth creation, climate change and disaster risk reduction. Guyana benefits from this programme directly, as well as through regional bodies. Our regional programme does not include support to education or health. Until December 2011, Guyana will benefit from our support to the United Nations Development Programme's Enhancing Public Trust, Security and Inclusion programme which includes work to strengthen governance by empowering communities to press for better services and greater accountability from Government.

On environmental protection, Guyana will continue to benefit from our regional climate change support programme, as well as the programmes of multilateral bodies (such as the World Bank and European Union) to which the UK makes a significant contribution and which support a range of areas including forest and mangrove protection. In previous years, the UK helped fund the development and implementation of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy, which includes forest protection. Norway is now supporting Guyana in this field, so no additional UK bilateral support is anticipated this year.

North Korea: Overseas Aid

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* food aid and *(b)* other aid his Department gave to North Korea in the last period for which figures are available; and how much aid has been given to North Korea in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [55624]

Mr Duncan: In 2009-10, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £2.8 million in humanitarian aid for North Korea through our core contribution to the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). This contribution was not earmarked for specific purposes.

In 2007-08, DFID gave £649,422 in humanitarian assistance to North Korea, £500,000 of which was food aid for 215,000 people affected by floods.

DFID did not provide aid to North Korea in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2008-09.

Pakistan: Education

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what arrangements are in place to ensure that funding from his Department for education in Pakistan is not used to support the teaching of hate in schools. [55566]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Pakistan is facing an education emergency; in response the UK Government will get four million more children into school by 2015. To help ensure that UK aid is not being used to support the teaching of hate in Pakistani schools, the Department for International Development (DFID) is working with the Pakistani authorities to support a curriculum audit and a textbooks development process to ensure all textbooks promote peace and co-existence; improve teachers' recruitment and training processes; and strengthen the education system so that poor children have access to mainstream schooling.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department provides for those living in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. [55710]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides support to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon through the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The UK is the second largest bilateral donor to UNRWA. Our five-year arrangement with UNRWA provides unearmarked funding to its general budget, allowing UNRWA to plan for the long-term and improve service delivery to refugees across the region. We provided £27 million in 2010-11. Approximately 12% of UNRWA's general budget spending is in Lebanon.

In 2010-11, a further £1.5 million was provided to UNRWA specifically to help prevent further deterioration in the basic living standards of 5,670 families displaced from Nahr el Bared camp in Lebanon. This funding paid the rental subsidies for 3,436 families for two months (January and February 2011), and hospitalisation and medical cover for 1,172 families (for December 2010).

In addition, the Conflict Pool, which is jointly owned and managed by DFID, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence, provided £250,000 in 2010-11 for projects to strengthen dialogue between the Lebanese Government and Palestinian representatives; to support Palestinian refugee civil society groups to improve governance in refugee camps; and to reduce conflict both within camps and between Lebanese and Palestinian communities.

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/65/272 on the strengthening of the management capacity of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. [55788]

Mr Duncan: The UK voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/65/272, in line with our support for management reform in UNRWA and in recognition of UNRWA's critical financial situation.

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the adequacy of funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. [55926]

Mr Duncan: UNWRA faces a projected deficit of $63 million in its general budget for 2011. We are concerned that the deficit will undermine the provision of education, health and social services to refugees.

UNRWA, donors and host countries need to work together to put UNRWA's finances on a sustainable basis. We call on all countries to honour their funding commitments to UNWRA. The UK is the second largest bilateral donor to UNWRA, having provided £27 million to the general budget in 2010-11.

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the support to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon announced in February 2011 was allocated to rebuilding the Nahr el Bared refugee camp in Northern Lebanon; and how much of the allocated funding has been spent. [55927]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) announced £1.5 million of additional support to UNRWA in February 2011, all of which was allocated to preventing further deterioration in the basic living standards of 5,670 families displaced from Nahr el Bared. This funding paid the rental subsidies for 3,436 families for two months (January and February 2011), and hospitalisation and medical cover for 1,172 families (for December 2010); none of the funding was allocated for rebuilding work.

The UK has a five-year arrangement with UNRWA to provide unearmarked funding to its general budget which allows UNRWA to plan for the long-term and improve service delivery to refugees. In 2010-11 the UK gave £27 million to UNRWA. Approximately 12% of UNRWA's general budget spending is in Lebanon.

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the humanitarian situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon; and what effect their situation has on the assistance they require from the UK *(a)* directly and *(b)* through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. [55940]

Mr Duncan: The most recent assessment of the humanitarian situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon is the report by UNRWA, 'Socio-economic survey of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon', published in December 2010. UNRWA has said that it needs £350 million ($568 million) for 2011 to be able to carry out its work in the region, of which approximately £42 million ($68 million) will be spent in Lebanon. An additional £11 million ($18.51 million) will be needed for the rebuilding of Nahr el Bared camp and to support families to return their homes.

The UK is the second largest bilateral donor to UNRWA. We provided £27 million in unearmarked funding to UNRWA's general budget in 2010-11. In addition we provided £1.5 million last year specifically to support families displaced from Nahr el Bared camp in Lebanon. Approximately 12% of UNRWA's general budget is spent in Lebanon.

In addition, the Conflict Pool, which is jointly owned and managed by DFID, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence, provided £250,000 in 2010-11 for projects to strengthen dialogue between the Lebanese Government and Palestinian representatives; to support Palestinian refugee civil society groups to improve governance in refugee camps; and to reduce conflict both within camps and between Lebanese and Palestinian communities.

West Africa

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which joint projects his Department is engaged in *(a)* Sierra Leone, *(b)* Liberia, *(c)* Mali, *(d)* Niger and *(e)* Mozambique in each year since 2004; and what the name is of each project partner in each such country. [55555]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development works with a range of bilateral and multilateral development partners to support poverty reduction in developing countries. We have placed information in the Library of the House of Commons about projects funded jointly by DFID and one or more bilateral or multilateral partners in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali, Niger and Mozambique, for the years 2008 to 2010. Providing information for previous years would incur disproportionate cost.

West Africa: Overseas Aid

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what inward investment activity his Department's offices in *(a)* Sierra Leone, *(b)* Liberia, *(c)* Mali, *(d)* Niger and *(e)* Mozambique have undertaken in the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the (i) cost and (ii) investment returns of such activities. [55602]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development does not provide support directly for inward investment through its bilateral programmes.

DFID recognises that private sector driven economic growth is essential for sustained poverty reduction. We support a number of African countries to tackle the barriers to growth and improve the enabling environment for business investment and trade, including Sierra Leone.

A key part of the UK's development strategy in Sierra Leone is to reduce dependency on donor funds, through an increase in foreign investment. We are also working closely with the Government of Sierra Leone, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to improve access to finance for the private sector to drive wealth creation.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which projects funded by his Department in *(a)* Sierra Leone, *(b)* Liberia, *(c)* Mali, *(d)* Niger and *(e)* Mozambique cost over £5,000 in each year since 2006; what the (i) cost to the public purse, (ii) objectives and (iii) direct beneficiaries of each such project were; and what assessment reports have been completed for each such project. [55606]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Providing detailed information on all projects over £5,000 since 2006 would incur disproportionate cost. Information about the Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral programmes can be found on the DFID website, in a range of publications, and in the annual reports presented to Parliament.

This Government are committed to making the aid budget transparent and accountable to the British taxpayer as well as recipients of our aid. That is why in January 2011, as part of the new UK Aid Transparency Guarantee, we began to publish information on the DFID website for all new projects over £500, including core project documentation. From 1 April 2011, all annual reviews and project completion reports for current projects valued at £1 million and over have also been made available on the website.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's aid budget for *(a)* Sierra Leone, *(b)* Liberia, *(c)* Mali, *(d)* Niger and *(e)* Mozambique was allocated to projects sponsored by his Department in each year since 2006; and how much and what proportion of the budget for each such country was paid directly to its government in each such year. [55611]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided bilateral funding to Sierra Leone, Niger and Mozambique since 2006. Information about project spending and funding supplied to governments has been placed in the Library of the House of Commons.

Additional information relating to the aid budget and the proportion directed to recipient governments can be found on the DFID website in the annual publication "Statistics on International Development" (SID).

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment and Support Allowance: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will initiate a review of the guidance on myalgic encephalomyelitis provided to *(a)* new and *(b)* existing (i) assessors and (ii) other staff in (A) his Department and (B) Atos. [56164]

Chris Grayling: Guidance on chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis is already kept under regular review. The guidance for decision-makers is updated in light of relevant developments. For Atos health care professionals there are a range of training and information products which are reviewed on an ongoing regular basis, such as a learning set which is reviewed annually.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he intends to apply a housing benefit deduction to social tenants deemed to be under-occupying their homes where a forthcoming change of circumstances would mean the property could no longer be defined as such due to dependent children reaching an age which changed their eligibility for a bedroom. [53717]

Steve Webb: We are currently considering the policy detail of this measure and how it will be implemented. Further details will be published in due course.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of claimants not currently eligible for housing benefit who will be affected by the proposed total household benefit cap. [55015]

Steve Webb: The number of claimants not currently eligible for housing benefit who will be affected by the proposed total household benefit cap is estimated to be less than 10%.

Analysis of those affected by the benefit cap has been modelled using survey data—as such there is a degree of uncertainty around the results.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which benefit accounts for the largest proportion of welfare receipts of claimants likely to be affected by the proposed total housing benefit cap. [55017]

Steve Webb: It is estimated that child tax credit and housing benefit account for the largest proportion of welfare receipts of households that are likely to be affected by the total benefit cap.

Analysis of those affected by the benefit cap has been modelled using survey data—as such there is a degree of uncertainty around the results.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he made of the level of *(a)* private and *(b)* social housing rents in forming his estimate of the likely number of people that will be affected by his planned benefits entitlement cap. [55998]

Steve Webb: The benefit cap modelling is based on DWP's Policy Simulation Model, which uses data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey. Rent levels have been uprated from 2008-09 to 2013-14 prices, taking into account inflation projections, changes in housing policy and recent trends in rental prices.

The impact assessment for the benefit cap is on the DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/household-benefit-cap-wr2011-ia.pdf

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has any plans to produce an equality impact assessment in respect of his proposed changes to support for mortgage interest using a larger sample size. [55263]

Steve Webb: We draw on all available information and quantitative evidence to establish and produce written assessments of the impact of DWP policies on equality. There are, however, limitations in the available information which sometimes affect the scope of assessments, particularly in relation to different ethnic minority groups.

In light of the introduction of universal credit, we are considering whether changes are needed to the current approach of calculating help with mortgage costs for both working age and pensioner claimants. There are a number of possible options which we are exploring fully. We believe it should be possible to provide support more efficiently but it will take time to reach a sensible conclusion on the long-term future design of any support for homeowners.

In taking this work forward, we will assess equality impacts using all available information. We will also gather further information to inform the assessments where appropriate and cost-effective to do so.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to provide assistance to pensioners with outstanding mortgage debt; and if he will make a statement. [53601]

Steve Webb: Pensioners who are entitled to state pension credit may receive an additional element called support for mortgage interest. This makes a contribution towards the interest on eligible loans taken out to purchase the property, and specific loans for repairs and improvements which are necessary to maintain the home's fitness for habitation.

We are considering currently whether changes are needed to the current approach of calculating help with mortgage costs for both pensioner and working age claimants. There are a number of possible options which we are exploring fully. We believe it should be possible to provide support more efficiently but it will take time to reach a sensible conclusion on the long-term future design of any support for homeowners.

National Employment Savings Trust Scheme: Shipping

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason merchant seamen are excluded from the National Employment Savings Trust. [55825]

Steve Webb: Under the automatic enrolment provisions which are due to be rolled out from 2012, employers to whom the duties apply will be able to use the National Employment Savings Trust, or any other qualifying pension scheme.

The Pensions Act 2008 currently excludes seafarers from automatic enrolment. This was because time was needed to fully consider the complex issues that arose in considering whether and how seafarers would be covered by these provisions.

Discussions with other interested Government Departments and stakeholders to resolve these issues are ongoing and I expect to be able to update the House on the conclusion of this work soon.

National Insurance

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* new national insurance numbers were registered and *(b)* new workers there were in the UK in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [53470]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) latest figures available show that around 1.4 million new national insurance numbers (NINOs) were registered between April 2009 and March 2010. It would be disproportionately expensive to identify how many individuals worked for the first time during this period.

Unemployed People

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households where there has been multi-generational worklessness; and what proportion this represented of the total number of workless households. [52515]

Chris Grayling: The source for the official number of workless households and children in workless households is the household Labour Force Survey.

Latest data (Quarter 4 2010) show there are almost 4 million households where no one works, covering 5.61 million working age (16 to 64) people and 1.86 million children aged 0 to 16.

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which programmes of IT support for the implementation of universal credit have commenced to date. [55505]

Chris Grayling: The initial design of the universal credit core IT system is now under way and is being developed. The core IT system will include the online accessibility, the data store and the universal credit rules capability.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which organisation is the lead provider for each programme of IT support for implementation of universal credit; what the estimated budget of each programme is; what the principal deliverables from each programme are; and by what date each such deliverable is due. [55506]

Chris Grayling: Currently Accenture are the lead service providers for application development, and Hewlett-Packard Education Services are leading on the deployment of infrastructure. British Telecom are providing the networking provision. These contracts are in line with our current framework agreements.

We expect the application and infrastructure to be delivered by October 2013.

To safeguard our commercial position we are unable to divulge the specific IT budgets.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Nationals Abroad: Offences against Children

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of European Criminal Records Information System in enabling exchange of criminal records between EU member states; and what contribution he expects it to make to preventing known sex offenders from targeting children overseas. [55925]

Lynne Featherstone: I have been asked to reply.

The implementation date for the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) is April 2012. When it is implemented we expect the speed with which criminal records are exchanged between EU member states to increase. We also expect member states to exchange more criminal records once this can be done electronically rather than on paper. Together these should improve the effectiveness of criminal record exchange within the European Union.

ECRIS is not an EU-wide criminal record system, nor is it EU-wide sex offenders' register. It is instead a computerised criminal record exchange system. The effectiveness with which ECRIS will prevent known sex offenders from targeting children overseas depends on the extent to which other member states chose to make requests for the previous convictions of those seeking to work with children. The UK already encourages other member states to seek the previous convictions of UK nationals who are seeking to work with children.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department plans to cease to fund any of its functions over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [55186]

Mr Lidington: As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) made clear in his statement to the House on 11 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1165-1168, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has no plans to cease to fund any of its core functions as a result of its 2010 spending round settlement.

However, in 2014-15 responsibility for funding the British Broadcasting Corporation World Service will transfer from being a 'grant-in-aid' payment from the FCO to the Licence Fee.

United Nations General Assembly

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the resolution passed at the United Nations General Assembly to grant the EU higher participation status; what additional rights for the EU he expects as a result of that resolution; and if he will make a statement. [55517]

Mr Lidington: The United Nations General Assembly resolution on the "Participation of the European Union in the Work of the United Nations" was adopted on 3 May 2011 in the United Nations General Assembly by a vote of 180 in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions, Syria and Zimbabwe.

As the Deputy Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr Clegg), said in his address to the UN General Assembly in September 2010.

> "it is important that the vital role of the EU in promoting development and prosperity can be adequately represented in the General Assembly."

The 3 May 2011 result achieves this, while preserving our interests on how EU member states are represented externally.

The resolution allows technical and procedural changes to ensure the EU can continue to be represented as effectively as it was before the new presidency arrangements established by the Lisbon treaty came into effect before the resolution, the EU's rotating presidency, or another EU member state, represented the EU agreed position in the UN General Assembly. The Lisbon treaty transferred from the rotating presidency to the High Representative the responsibilities for chairing the Foreign Affairs Council and representing common foreign policy positions agreed unanimously by the member states. This resolution now allows that, while remaining an observer, the EU itself can represent common agreed positions of member states in the General Assembly. EU representatives—including the President of the European Council or Baroness Ashton—can now be inscribed on the list of speakers among representatives of major groups in order to make early interventions and may be invited to participate in the general debate of the General Assembly, subject to the limits set out in the resolution text. It remains the case, however, that the EU representatives can only do this if the UK and other member states authorise them to do so. Furthermore, EU representatives speak and act on behalf of the 27 member states with their authorisation, not in addition to them.

The resolution underlines the intergovernmental nature of the General Assembly, whose membership is limited to UN member states. It does not affect the UK's sovereignty; nor does it affect the UK's ability to act independently in the UN or internationally. The rights of individual EU member states are not curtailed. Moreover, the resolution makes very clear that the EU will remain an observer. Its status in the General Assembly is unchanged.

The EU representative will continue to be seated among the other international organisations that have observer status.

The effect of the resolution is limited to the General Assembly (including Committees, working groups, international meetings and UN conferences). It does not affect the rights or status of the EU or member states in any other UN body or international organisation. The UK's position in the UN Security Council is not affected.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Attorney-General how many contracts the Law Officers' Departments hold which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55747]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments do not have any contracts which permit the contractor to store personal data of UK citizens overseas.

TRANSPORT

Aircraft: Seating

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department plans to review the regulations governing *(a)* the minimum size of and *(b)* distance between passenger seats applicable to aircraft registered in the UK. [54789]

Mrs Villiers: The requirements for seat standards in commercial transport aircraft are set by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). They apply to EU registered aircraft including those registered in the UK.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has an additional requirement which identifies minimum seat spacing for all UK registered aircraft commonly used in commercial flights to ensure that passengers are able to vacate their seats quickly in an emergency. The CAA has notified EASA of this requirement and the safety case for establishing a minimum distance between seat rows.

Aviation: Biofuels

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with which representatives of *(a)* European and *(b)* UK organisations he has discussed the use of biofuels in aviation since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [55405]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport Ministers meet regularly with representatives from UK and European organisations where they discuss a range of transport issues including the use of biofuels in aviation.

The Government have announced their intention to develop a sustainable policy framework for UK aviation. On 30 March 2011, the Department for Transport published a scoping document that frames the debate on the future direction of aviation policy and asks a series of questions, including on use of biofuels in aviation. The responses to the scoping document will help to inform the development of a draft framework, which we intend to publish for full public consultation in March 2012.

Aviation: Working Hours

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings Ministers in his Department have had with *(a)* airlines and *(b)* pilots' representatives since May 2010. [53602]

Mrs Villiers: Ministers in the Department for Transport frequently meet with representatives of airlines and pilots. Details of all ministerial meetings with external organisations between May 2010 and December 2010 have been published on the Department's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/ministers/transparency/

Information since January 2011 is being collated and will be released as soon as practical to do so.

Biofuels

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department classifies bio-ethanol as a second generation biofuel; and if he will make a statement. [52962]

Norman Baker: Bioethanol is ethanol produced from bio sources. It can be classed as either first or second generation (advanced) biofuel depending on the feedstock and processes used to produce it.

First generation bioethanol derived from crops such as wheat, sugar cane and sugar beet is one of the most common biofuels in use today. Some 29% of biofuel supplied under the renewable transport fuel obligation in year 2009-10 was bioethanol.

DFT recognises that advanced or "second generation" biofuels may offer many benefits including increased greenhouse gas savings, producing fuels from land which was otherwise unproductive or from waste material with no other uses. Some advanced biofuels may also be more readily used in current vehicles than first generation biofuels.

The renewable energy directive encourages biofuels from wastes, residues and lignocellulosic material, by double counting the contribution they make towards national targets.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department plans to conduct its consultation on the inclusion of bio-methanol as a biofuel classified as eligible for rewards under the renewable transport fuels obligation; and if he will make a statement. [52964]

Norman Baker: Biofuels are supported in the UK through the renewable transport fuels obligation (RTFO). One renewable transport fuel certificate is awarded for every litre (or kilogram in the case of gaseous fuels) of biofuel reported.

We are currently consulting on amendments to the RTFO to implement both the transport elements of the renewable energy directive (RED) and aspects of the closely related fuel quality directive (FQD).

The consultation includes the proposal to expand the scope of the current RTFO such that all renewable fuels of biological origin are eligible to be counted towards discharging the obligation. This proposed change would make bio-methanol eligible for support through the RTFO. The consultation documents are available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration his Department has given to the findings of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics report, Biofuels: ethical issues; and whether he plans to take any steps as a consequence of its findings. [53226]

Norman Baker: The Nuffield Council on Bioethics report presents some finely balanced arguments around the ethical issues of biofuels.

The Government are clear that biofuels used must lead to a worthwhile reduction in carbon emissions and be sustainable. We are working with colleagues across Government to ensure a coherent approach to the deployment of sustainable biofuels.

As part of the EU renewable energy directive, the European Commission must monitor and report every two years on the impact of biofuel policy on social sustainability.

The reports must address issues of land use rights, and state whether the raw material for biofuel use in the EU has complied with Conventions of the International Labour Organisation. If necessary the Commission must propose corrective action.

Commuters

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to promote Walk to Work Week to commuters. [55404]

Norman Baker: The coalition Government are committed to supporting sustainable travel initiatives, including walking and cycling. Given that half of all car journeys are under five miles there would be improvements to health, air quality and traffic congestion if more of these journeys were undertaken either on foot, bike, or by public transport.

Our new Local Sustainable Transport Fund has made £560 million available to local transport authorities to fund schemes that create growth and cut carbon, including those which incentivise walking.

On 12 May I walked to work with Living Streets as part of Walk to Work week. Many members of staff at the Department of Transport and across Whitehall have also taken the opportunity to walk to work.

We are also encouraging staff to think about how they can travel and work differently as part of our preparations for reducing our travel during the Olympics next summer.

Cycling: Safety

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will meet representatives of the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group to discuss issues of road safety of interest to cyclists. [53987]

Mike Penning: I would be delighted to meet with representatives of the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group to discuss road safety issues of interest to cyclists. We share the objective of improving cycling safety and I would be interested to hear the group's views on how the Government can best support the delivery of this objective.

Departmental Public Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London Underground and (ii) public bus services on government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [50073]

Norman Baker: The information requested is as follows.

(a) (i) The Secretary of State for Transport most recently travelled by London Underground on Government business last week on 11 and 13 of May 2011.

(b) (i) The Minister of State, Department for Transport last travelled by London Underground on Government business on 16 May 2011.

The Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) has not travelled by London Underground.

I last travelled by London Underground on Government business on 6 April 2011.

(b) (ii) The Minister of State, Department for Transport has not travelled by public bus on Government business.

The Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) last travelled by public bus on Government business on 15 March 2011.

I last travelled by public bus on Government business on 10 May 2011.

The Secretary of State for Transport has not travelled on public bus on official business.

Information about the number of journeys undertaken by each Minister by each form of transport is not recorded in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, given the frequency with which public transport is used by Ministers.

Ministers at the Department for Transport proactively seek to use public transport or cycling options wherever possible. Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost effective travel arrangements.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Yeovil

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the location will be of the new DVLA driving test centre in Yeovil; when that centre will open; and if he will make a statement. [55416]

Mike Penning: Negotiations for a licence to occupy a unit at the Abbey Business Park, Yeovil are close to being concluded. A planning application for change of use has been lodged with South Somerset district council (SSDC) and a decision is awaited.

The opening of the new test centre is dependent on SSDC agreeing the change of use.

The Driving Standards Agency cannot commit to an opening date for the test centre until the outcome of the application is known.

Great Western Railway: Finance

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what payments his Department has made to First Great Western in each year since the company became the franchise holder for the Great Western Main Line; and what the total net subsidy to that company has been during that period. [56143]

Mrs Villiers: This information is published annually by the Office of Rail Regulation in 'National Rail Trends'. Copies are available in the Library of the House and online at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1863

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authorities were sent a letter announcing the launch of the current public consultation on High Speed 2. [54017]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* I wrote to all council leaders in England on 28 February with details of the public consultation.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that service operators on the West Coast Mainline do not attempt to compete on speed with High Speed 2 services by reducing the number of places serviced on their long-distance routes between London and Manchester. [54804]

Mr Philip Hammond: The specification for any franchise on the West Coast Main Line after 2026 would not be determined until considerably nearer the time. However, the West Coast Main Line is likely to be considerably better placed to compete with HS2 in terms of destinations served rather than journey speeds.

Motor Vehicle: Testing

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has any plans to change the frequency of MOT inspections for private and commercial vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [53202]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* I intend to review the MOT test scheme. I have no preconceptions about the outcome of a review; the aim will be to strike the right balance between vehicle safety and the burden imposed on motorists by MOT test requirements.

I will make an announcement in due course about the timing and scope of the review, which will include, but not be limited to, a review of MOT test frequency. There will be an opportunity for anyone with an interest to contribute to the debate.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport of 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 144WH, what proportion of receipts from vehicle excise duty and other taxes on motorists were spent on the road network in the latest period for which figures are available. [55758]

Mike Penning: The Chancellor of the Exchequer's annual Budget document, available via the HM Treasury website, sets out the Government's spending and revenue plans. Revenue from the various motoring taxes (including fuel duties and vehicle excise duties) is not ring-fenced for expenditure on roads.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to introduce an exemption for car rental and leasing businesses from responsibility for parking fines incurred by customers hiring their vehicles. [54197]

Norman Baker: Regulations made by the Government for parking enforcement in England (including London) under the Traffic Management Act 2004 enable the keeper of a vehicle that was, at the material time, hired from a vehicle hire company under a hiring agreement, to pass responsibility for the payment of any penalty charge notice (PCN) incurred to the hirer. We have no plans to change the regulations.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department collects information on the *(a)* revenue generated from (i) permits and (ii) fines in relation to restricted parking zones and *(b)* the number of parking permits issued for restricted parking zones by local authorities. [55764]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State for Transport does not collect any information in relation to *(a)* revenue generated from (i) permits (ii) fines in relation to restricted parking zones or *(b)* the number of parking permits issued for restricted parking zones.

Railways: Franchises

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had on the inclusion of language requirements in the tendering process for rail franchises which include Wales. [56144]

Mrs Villiers: No discussions have taken place. As part of the recent consultation on the Intercity West Coast franchise, the Department received no representation for documentation or meetings in languages other than English.

Renewable Energy: EU Law

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department expects to fully implement the Renewable Energy Directive before the outcome of the EU examination of indirect land use change; and if he will make a statement. [52963]

Norman Baker: We are currently consulting on proposals to implement the transport elements of the Renewable Energy Directive. The consultation period will run until 2 June 2011. Consultation documents can be found on the Department for Transport (DfT) website.

DfT takes the issue of indirect land use change (ILUC) seriously. We have recently published research on the scale of ILUC and are continuing to lead work on how to reduce ILUC impacts.

Given the legitimate concerns and uncertainties around the sustainability of some biofuels, the consultation does not propose changes to the current overall biofuel supply trajectory that is set out in the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation Order 2007. However, there will be a legal obligation on the Secretary of State for Transport to keep this issue under review and to consider what additional measures will be required to ensure that the UK delivers the requirements of the EU RED and Fuel Quality Directive period 2014 to 2020.

We will review the European Commission report on options for addressing ILUC before setting post-2014 targets.

Roads: Accidents

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the potential effects of his proposals for the MOT vehicle test on the number of people *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* slightly injured as a result of motoring accidents; and if he will make a statement. [53784]

Mike Penning: I intend to review the MOT test scheme. I want to make sure that a review takes account of all the latest information available to us. To that end, we have recently published the results of independent research the Department commissioned to examine how vehicle defects affect accident rates, and to consider the potential road safety impact of changing the frequency of the MOT. The Effect of Vehicle Defects in Road Accidents report can be found at

http://www.trl.co.uk/library/reports_publications/latest_publications/

This research will be a useful addition to other information we will be gathering through the review process.

Roads: EU Action

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to bring forward proposals to allow the EU to exercise greater control over the road network in the UK. [53079]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* There are no proposals to give the EU greater control over the UK's road network and the Government have no intention of bringing forward any such proposals.

Rolling Stock: Repairs and Maintenance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many train carriages his Department has paid to be refurbished in the last five years. [55331]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not directly funded refurbishment of train carriages. This is usually funded by rolling stock leasing companies or train operating companies.

Vehicle Number Plates: Fraud

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanism he has put in place to prevent the cloning of number plates. [52885]

Mike Penning: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) maintains a register of number plate suppliers as a means of regulating the supply of number plates. Since 2003 customers requiring new or replacement number plates have been required to provide evidence of entitlement to the registration mark and proof of identity before being issued with a number plate. Suppliers are required to keep records of sales. DVLA enforcement officers take action in cases of non-compliance.

In addition, DVLA has endorsed a voluntary standard for anti-theft number plates that are incapable of being removed from a vehicle and re-used. These plates are commercially available and motorists are encouraged to fit them as a sensible precaution to protect themselves against the risk of theft.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on succession rights and social housing. [55642]

Andrew Stunell: So far this year, the Department has received seven letters from Members of Parliament and members of the public on succession rights in social housing. These letters have focussed on the restrictions imposed by current legislation in this area.

The Localism Bill contains provisions that will change succession rules to allow social landlords greater freedom to grant further succession rights in the light of individual circumstances.

Allotments

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers his Department has concerning the provision of allotments; what plans he has for his policy on allotments; and what his policy is on allotment owners who have their own garden. [56169]

Robert Neill: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles) has powers to consent to the disposal of statutory allotments or the use of statutory allotments for other purposes.

The Department has no intention of removing statutory protections for allotments and, as such, we have no plans to remove local authorities' statutory duties to provide allotments. We will continue to support local communities who want to use local spaces for community food growing, and to protect existing land for this purpose, for example, through new neighbourhood planning provisions in the Localism Bill, which will provide a new right for communities to shape their local areas, including the means to boost allotment provision. The Department published a news release to this effect on 7 May, available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1897155

Research produced by the university of Derby in 2006, based on a partial survey of local authorities, reported that in the period 1996 to 2006, the number of allotment plots fell by 50,630. The report, commissioned but unpublished by the previous Government, was posted up on the DCLG website on 6 May, available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1897047.pdf

We will also continue to help highlight guidance to local authorities, available via "A Place to Grow" on the LGA website at:

www.lga.gov.uk/lga/publications/publication-display.do?id=9027596

The Department has no specific policy on allotment holders who have their own gardens.

Audit Commission

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date he decided to appoint consultants to advise on future arrangements for the audit practice aspect of the Audit Commission's work; and what the cost of appointing them was. [53641]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles) agreed in February that officials could begin a competitive tender process for financial advice relating to the transfer of the work of the Audit Commission's in-house practice into the private sector. The successful tenderer, FTI, was subsequently appointed in April at a cost of £100,000 excluding VAT. I refer the hon. Member to the news story about this appointment on my Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/localgovernment/1889672

As part of the Government's commitment to transparency, this contract, like all contracts entered into by the Department, is available on the following website:

http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/

Council Housing

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to prevent the sub-letting of council houses by their tenants. [56148]

Andrew Stunell: Last December, the Minister for Housing and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), announced a £20 million package to help social landlords crack down on the unlawful sub-letting of their stock.

Approximately £19 million will be given to local authorities over the next four years, and we are also funding the Chartered Institute of Housing to host a team of experts to offer practical help and advice to social landlords on the most effective ways to tackle tenancy fraud and under-occupation.

The Department is continuing to work closely with the National Fraud Authority who has recently announced the creation of a framework agreement that will allow local authorities to use credit reference agencies more cheaply.

On 11 May, my Department issued a 10-point checklist in conjunction with the National Fraud Authority on how councils can save taxpayers' money by tackling fraud. I have placed a copy in the Library of the House.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55874]

Robert Neill: In the period between 1 May 2010 and 31 March 2011 a total of 27,319 invoices were processed for payment of which 5,418 (19.84%) were not paid within the five-day prompt payment target. (The target is that 80% are to be paid within five days.)

Derelict Land: Housing

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of homes built in each of the last 14 years were built on brownfield land. [52089]

Greg Clark: Information on the proportion of homes built on previously-developed land (including all conversions), the proportion on previously residential land and the proportion on previously developed land excluding land that was previously residential is shown in the following table.

Proportion of dwellings built on previously-developed land

Percentage

	All previously-developed land plus all conversions[1]	*Previously residential land*[2,3]	*All previously developed land excl. previously residential*
1995	57	12	43
1996	57	11	42
1997	56	11	42
1998	58	12	43
1999	59	12	44
2000	62	15	44
2001	64	15	46
2002	67	15	49
2003	70	16	51
2004	75	19	53
2005	77	20	55
2006	76	22	52
2007	77	27	50
2008	80	24	54
2009[4]	80	27	51

[1] Net additional homes from conversion of existing dwellings; estimated to add three percentage points up to 2002. The process of estimation has been elaborated from 2003.

[2] As reported by Ordnance Survey, mainly excluding conversions.

[3] Includes development on gardens and after demolition of dwellings.

[4] Provisional.

Source:

Land Use Change Statistics Live Tables 211 and 221

Energy Performance Certificates

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of small businesses that will be affected by the requirement for holiday lets to have energy performance certificates. [55568]

Andrew Stunell: Where the owner intends to rent out the property for a combined period of more than four months in any 12 month period, we estimate that 55,000 to 70,000 dwellings which are used as short term holiday lets will be affected.

An impact assessment is available on my Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/epcholidayletsia

Since fuel bills for short term holiday lets are normally paid for by the property owner, increasing transparency about the energy efficiency of the building will reduce utility bills for the owner, if the recommendations are taken up.

Fire Services: Hoaxes and False Alarms

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* genuine and *(b)* malicious fire emergency calls have been received from Leeds North West constituency in each year since 2004. [55440]

Robert Neill: The information held centrally is only to fire authority level. The numbers of malicious false alarm calls and other emergency calls to West Yorkshire fire and rescue service are shown in the following table:

Total emergency calls and malicious false alarms calls to West Yorkshire fire and rescue service, 2004-05[1] to 2009-10

	2004-05[1]	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Malicious false alarm calls	n/a	4,062	3,903	2,395	2,149	1,415
Other emergency calls	n/a	88,625	88,458	82,000	76,163	74,012
Total emergency calls	88,401	92,687	92,361	84,395	78,312	75,427

[1] Data for malicious/other emergency calls were not held centrally prior to 2005-06.

Source:
West Yorkshire fire and rescue service.

Housing: Construction

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of homes built in Portsmouth were built on brownfield land in each of the last five years. [54519]

Greg Clark: Information on the proportion of homes built on previously developed land, the proportion on previously residential land and the proportion on previously developed land excluding land that was previously residential in Portsmouth is shown in the following table.

Proportion of new dwellings built on previously developed and previously residential land, Portsmouth

	Previously developed	Previously residential[1]	All previously developed land excluding previously residential
1994-97	70	12	58
1998 to 2001	85	17	68
2002-05	95	16	79
2006-09	91	21	70

[1] Includes development on gardens and after demolition of dwellings.

Source:
Land Use Change Statistics.

Information for local authorities is shown for four-year periods because of volatility in estimates for individual years.

Land: Ownership

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to facilitate councils taking control of abandoned land with no registered owner. [55419]

Robert Neill: If the council requires the land for a scheme and can demonstrate that there is a compelling case in the public interest for its acquisition, they already have a range of compulsory purchase powers which they can use to acquire and regenerate abandoned land.

Religious Buildings: Planning Permission

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications for places of religious worship were considered by the Planning Inspectorate in each of the last three years. [55456]

Robert Neill: The total number of related planning applications considered by the Planning Inspectorate, as appeals or called in applications, for each of the last three financial years is detailed in the following table.

Financial year	Number considered
2008-09	33
2009-10	42
2010-11	46

Rented Housing: Private Sector

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with Shelter on unscrupulous landlords since May 2010. [55420]

Andrew Stunell: Ministers in the Department have discussed issues of mutual interest with Shelter on 10 occasions since May 2010. These discussions have covered a range of topics, including private rented sector landlords.

Shared Ownership Schemes

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of shared ownership properties that have been sold on in the latest period for which figures are available. [55644]

Andrew Stunell: Information on shared ownership sales is recorded in CORE (Continuous Recording of Lettings and Sales of social housing in England). The latest statistical release relates to 2009-10 and was published by the Tenants Services Authority in September 2010. This shows that there were 5,481 new build homebuy (shared ownership) sales and 674 other shared ownership sales by registered social landlords in 2009-10.

Information on onward sales of shared ownership properties by their owners is not collected centrally as these are sales by individual private owners and not by registered providers. However, where the property is returned to the registered provider for resale, this information is requested on CORE and an estimated 18% of shared ownership sales were identified as this type of resale.

Tenant Services Authority: Government Procurement Card

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* gross amount, *(c)* level 3 line item detail and *(d)* supplier was in respect of each transaction by the Tenants Service Authority using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [54576]

Andrew Stunell: A table providing a breakdown of expenditure by the Tenant Services Authority using Government Procurement Cards for 2008-09 and 2009-10 has been placed in the Library of the House.

The data cover the periods 1 December 2008 (when the TSA commenced business) to 31 March 2009; and 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. Total expenditure in 2008-09 was £31,561.00. Total expenditure in 2009-10 was £114,649.93.

The bulk of the transactions are at or below £50 - 39% of total in 2008-09 and 53% of total in 2009-10.

The spending controls and disciplines introduced by this Government have led to the number of Government Procurement Card users and value of transactions decreasing, so that there are now only four members of staff who have a card.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Aviation: Treaties

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on the ratification of the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment. [55476]

Mr Prisk: The UK is committed to its ratification, and issued a call for evidence last year July seeking stakeholder views. Following the call for evidence, BIS officials held several meetings with industry stakeholders to discuss the benefits of UK ratification. A Government response to the call for evidence will be released in the near future.

English Language: Education

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will assess the potential impact on community cohesion of the withdrawal of full fee remission for students of English for speakers of other languages courses; [55612]

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects on community cohesion of the withdrawal of full fee remission for students of English for speakers of other languages courses who are asylum seekers; [55613]

(3) whether he has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the status of asylum seekers in relation to the removal of full fee remission for students of English for speakers of other languages. [55615]

Mr Hayes: The equality impact assessment published alongside 'Skills for Sustainable Growth' (November 2010) found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes may affect English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners is currently being carried out by this Department, and I expect to be able to publish this before summer recess.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, has not had discussions with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department, specifically regarding fee remission for asylum seekers studying ESOL.

Graduates: Pay

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the likely level of additional lifelong earnings a person can expect to receive attributable to *(a)* study for a university degree and *(b)* completion of an apprenticeship. [55918]

Mr Hayes: Over their working life, the average graduate earns comfortably over £100,000 more, net of taxation and in today's valuation, compared to similar individuals with two or more A-Levels who do not go to university.

This is demonstrated in reports including 'The Return to a University Education in Great Britain' and 'The Economic Benefits of Higher Education Qualifications', which can be accessed at:

http://ner.sagepub.com/content/193/1/75.full.pdf.

http://www.rsc.org/images/EconomicBenefitsHigherEducationQualifications_tcm18-12647.pdf

The net lifetime benefit of completing an advanced apprenticeship is around £105,000, when compared with similar individuals whose highest qualification is at level 2. The corresponding estimate for an intermediate apprenticeship is £73,000, when compared with similar individuals whose highest qualification is at level 1 or level 2.

The estimates for apprenticeships capture the benefits to the learner—in terms of higher lifetime gross earnings in today's valuation—net of the costs of undertaking the learning, including both the resource costs to the state and the employer, and the value of production which is foregone while learning takes place.

This is demonstrated in 'A Cost Benefit Analysis of Apprenticeships and Other Vocational Qualifications', which can be accessed at:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/RR834.pdf.

Graduates: Work Experience

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had to promote *(a)* graduate employment and *(b)* support for small businesses following the end of the Graduate Internship Scheme. [55592]

Mr Willetts: I chaired the Graduate Employment Forum on 3 March and had a good discussion on graduate opportunities and employment.

The Government have decided to provide funding to continue the Graduate Talent Pool internship vacancy and matching service and extend it to include 2011 graduates. As well as benefitting graduates this will enable employers from all sectors, particularly SMEs, to test the benefits of employing enthusiastic graduates in the longer term.

Higher Education: Admissions

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has discussed with ministerial colleagues any potential changes to charity law in consequence of his recent proposals on off-quota university places. [55648]

Mr Willetts: The forthcoming higher education White Paper will consult on options for introducing off-quota recruitment. Any such scheme would need to comply with the conditions that the principles of fair access must apply, there would need to be genuine additional places, and there would be no reduction in entrance standards. Therefore it is clearly not the intention that, for example, independent schools should be able to sponsor places for their own pupils and after consultation we will ensure that there is a framework in place to prevent this.

On the basis of this consultation we will consider the legal implications of subsequent proposals for off-quota recruitment and look to introduce any necessary powers or changes to existing laws, subject to Parliament, during 2012.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* universities, *(b)* charities and *(c)* businesses on off-quota university places; and if he will make a statement. [55814]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* The purpose of considering off-quota proposals is to look at how we might make it easier for employers and charities to sponsor students at universities, and allow institutions to expand courses where employers or charities cover the costs of additional students.

We have already discussed this and other options for freeing up the control of student number allocations with a number of stakeholders. All proposals will be subject to wider consultation following the publication of the forthcoming higher education White Paper.

Postal Services

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the minimum number of access points for postal services necessary to meet the interests of the public throughout the UK. [55991]

Mr Davey: Under the Postal Services Bill, Ofcom will have a duty to carry out their functions in a way that they consider will secure the provision of sufficient access points to meet the reasonable needs of users. It is expected that in fulfilling that duty, Ofcom will conduct thorough research and analysis, and will consult users in order to take their views into account. Any assessment by the Secretary of State will be informed by Ofcom's analysis.

Postal Services: Fees and Charges

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will request Royal Mail to review its handling fee for low-value goods imported from outside the EU. [56156]

Mr Davey: The handling fee is an operational matter for Royal Mail and Government, as shareholder, do not play a role in decisions on this.

My hon. Friend may be interested to note that the Government's Postal Services Bill will insert a new section into the Postal Services Act 2000 which, for the first time, will give the postal regulator the power to direct postal operators on the level of handling charges.

Space Technology: Libya

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what purposes an export licence was granted to Libya for spacecraft; what goods have been supplied under this licence; and whether this licence remains in force. [52151]

Mr Prisk: This export licence was for export of an earth observation satellite for remote sensing applications. No goods have been supplied under this licence. The licence was revoked on 24 February 2011.

Students: Fees and Charges

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether there are circumstances in which a university may vary the published fees for a course after September 2012. [54316]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 12 May 2011]:* Individual institutions determine their tuition charges including any discounts or waivers as a contribution to the National Scholarship Programme or as part of a broader institutional package of financial support to promote access to higher education.

Any institution that considers altering its previously advertised prices or support package will need to consider the wider implications of such change, not least if it would be unfair on applicants who may have already accepted a higher charge or different support package for the same course. The Director of Fair Access has indicated that in such circumstances he would expect that institutions will want to offer the same financial package to all eligible applicants, including students who have already accepted an offer, not just those who applied late in the cycle.

Tobacco: Retail Trade

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will request the Office of Fair Trading to investigate the implications for *(a)* competition between companies and *(b)* the retail tobacco market of any introduction of plain packaging for tobacco products. [55082]

Mr Davey: The Government have announced that they will look at the plain packaging of tobacco products in Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England and have committed to explore fully the competition, trade and legal implications and other issues arising from plain packaging. Department of Health will consult by the end of 2011 on options to reduce the promotional impact of tobacco packaging, including consultation on a draft impact assessment.

Trade Promotion

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Commonwealth countries and *(b)* other non-EU countries on trade promotion. [55238]

Mr Prisk: The Government's lead department for trade promotion is UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), a joint department of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

UKTI focuses its resources on helping British companies to succeed in the markets where there is greatest demand from business for UKTI services, reflecting actual and potential opportunities in these markets. It has a presence in 96 markets around the world and this includes 20 Commonwealth countries which are trading partners for the UK, as well as a number of non-EU member state countries. Where there is no UKTI presence, FCO provides diplomatic support for British companies.

It is not possible to provide information on all the interactions that UKTI has had with the countries where it has a presence, as these are continuing and ongoing. There have been some notable, high profile, senior ministerial visits to target markets over the last year; participants have included the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and my noble Friend the Minister for Trade and Investment, Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, among others. Markets visited with ministerial delegations have included China, India, Brazil, Russia, the middle east and Egypt.

Based on HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics, UK exports of goods to Commonwealth countries in 2010 were worth some £23.9 billion and imports £31.4 billion. UK exports of goods to non-EU, non-Commonwealth countries in 2010 were worth some £112.0 billion and imports £161.3 billion.

Separately, UKTI's new strategy, Britain Open for Business, sets out plans to provide practical support to exporters and inward investors over the next five years. Working with the FCO, UKTI has identified 19 high-priority markets where they will intensify efforts and shift further resource to help UK companies seize opportunities. The full list of these markets is: Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam. We will also target Hong Kong both as a market in its own right and as a springboard into the mainland China market.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Arrest Warrants

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average a subject of a request for surrender under a European Arrest Warrant spent on remand before surrender in each year since the inception of the warrant; and what the average length of time remaining on the sentence at the date of surrender was in each such year. [55616]

Damian Green *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* There is no Home Office involvement in the operation of the European Arrest Warrant (EAW). This is a judicial process issued for the purposes of conducting a criminal prosecution against someone accused of an offence or for enforcing a term of imprisonment, where the person sought has been convicted of an offence.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (for Scotland) are the designated authorities for processing EAWs in the UK.

SOCA does not routinely store this information. To answer this question, a manual examination of approximately 1,700 files (the total number of people surrendered by the UK under the EAW since 2004) would be required, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the average number of occasions the subject of a request for surrender under a European arrest warrant has entered and left the requesting member state between the date of the alleged offence and the date of the request in each year since the inception of the warrant. [55617]

Damian Green *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) does not hold the relevant information to answer this question.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for surrender of an individual under a European Arrest Warrant her Department has received in each year since its inception. [55618]

Damian Green *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* The following table shows the number of European Arrest Warrant (EAW) requests received by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) each year since the inception of the EAW in 2004.

	EAW requests received by the UK
2010 (1 January 2010 to 31 March 2010)	1,080
2009	4,004
2008	3,307
2007	2,280
2006	5,020
2005	5,986
2004	1,865

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time to elapse between the date of an alleged offence and the receipt of a request for surrender in respect of that offence under the European Arrest Warrant by her Department was in each of the last three years. [55619]

Damian Green *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) does not routinely store this information. To answer this question a manual examination of over 23,500 files (the total number of European Arrest Warrants SOCA has received since 1 January 2004) would be required, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Detainees

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons under the age of 18 are detained awaiting the outcome of asylum applications. [55439]

Damian Green: As of 7 May 2011 there were no individuals under the age of 18 detained by the UK Border Agency in immigration removal centres.

Children: Protection

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the merits of ratifying and implementing the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. [55800]

James Brokenshire: Child sexual exploitation is an appalling crime. It is a form of child sexual abuse and tackling it is an absolute priority for the Government.

In May 2008, the UK signed the Council of Europe's Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. The Convention sets standards to ensure that countries criminalise the sexual exploitation and abuse of children and adopt similar standards of investigation and prosecution of these crimes. Officials across a number of Government Departments are currently considering the steps that would be required to ratify the Council of Europe Convention.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many invoices her Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55864]

Damian Green: The Department received a total of 63,893 compliant invoices on five-day and 30-day terms in respect of goods or services supplied between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011. Of this number, a total of 176 invoices on 30-day terms were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanism her Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55887]

Damian Green: The Department expects suppliers to pass the benefits of prompt payment down the supply chain. An on-line questionnaire with our suppliers is used to monitor compliance.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts her Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55742]

Damian Green: The Home Department, inclusive of its Executive agencies, holds just one contract where personal data of UK citizens are stored overseas. The contract is with Carlson Wagonlit Travel and a total of 13,975 personal details are stored for travel booking purposes across the UK, Spain, Germany and USA.

Departmental Pay

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional pay she plans to provide to officials in her Department in the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2013 to reflect *(a)* seniority, *(b)* promotion and *(c)* performance. [55411]

Damian Green: No other changes are planned to Home Office pay arrangements this year other than those given in the Government's pay freeze policy, which will continue to apply in 2011-12.

Payments made in 2012-13 will continue to be subject to affordability criteria and Government public sector pay policy at that time.

Departmental Public Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date *(a)* she and *(b)* each other Minister in her Department last travelled by (i) London Underground and (ii) public bus services on government business; how many times (A) she and (B) each other Minister in her Department has travelled by each such form of transport on government business since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [50085]

Damian Green: The Department holds the following information on ministerial travel by these forms of public transport:

Ministers in the Home Department last travelled by London Underground on Home Office business on the following occasions:

Lynne Featherstone—9 November 2010

James Brokenshire—16 December 2010

Damian Green—9 February 2011

Nick Herbert—6 April 2011

No Ministers in the Home Department have travelled by public bus on official Home Office business.

To obtain the total number of times these Ministers have travelled by London Underground on Home Office business could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to cease to fund any of its functions over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [55184]

Damian Green: The Home Office Business Plan sets out the Department's structural reform priorities over the four years of the spending review, including changes to certain functions. In particular, the Department will no longer impose unnecessary burdens and bureaucracy on the police or local partners, or intrude disproportionately on civil liberties and freedoms. I am confident that the Home Office will be able to achieve the priorities and carry out the functions set out in the Business Plan, while making overall savings of 23% in real terms by 2014-15, in line with the spending review settlement.

Domestic Violence: Advisory Services

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has allocated in respect of independent domestic violence advisers in *(a)* each financial year for which such funding has been available and *(b)* financial year 2011-12 to date. [55900]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* We have allocated funding for independent domestic violence advisers (IDVAs) in the following financial years:

In 2005-06: funding of £1 million to support the delivery of specialist domestic violence courts—this would have included funding IDVAs;

In 2006-07: funding of £2 million for IDVAs and independent sexual violence advisers;

In 2008-09 and 2009-10: funding was allocated to Government offices to support the Government response to tackle domestic and sexual violence. This would have included funding for IDVAs but we do not have a breakdown of the specific amount.

In 2010-11: we allocated £2.3 million for IDVAs and in 2011-12 we will allocate £2.5 million.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for funding for independent domestic violence advisers *(a)* her Department has received and *(b)* have been granted in financial year 2011-12 to date. [55902]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* We received over 230 applications for independent domestic violence adviser (IDVA) funding from over 200 organisations (statutory and voluntary).

We have granted funding towards 144 posts (statutory and voluntary) in the financial year 2011-12.

Driving Offences

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers have been *(a)* stopped by police on suspicion of, *(b)* charged with, *(c)* convicted of, *(d)* fined for and *(e)* cautioned for an offence of driving while using a mobile telephone in each police force area in each year since the prohibition came into force. [53494]

James Brokenshire: There were 125,516 fixed penalty notices issued by the 43 police forces of England and Wales for the use of handheld mobile phone while driving in 2009 compared with 115,926 in 2008.

A breakdown by police force area for 2009 can be found on page 67, table 3.01, column 4 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Powers and Procedures 2009/10". The publication is available in the Library of the House and at the weblink provided as follows:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb0711/

A breakdown by police force area for 2008 can be found on page 54, table 3.01, column four of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Powers and Procedures 2008/09". The publication is available in the Library of the House and at the weblink provided as follows:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0610.pdf

Historical data, going back to 2003 can be found on row 4, page 61, table 3b of the same publication.

Cautions, charges and convictions data are dealt with by the Ministry of Justice in their "Criminal Statistics" publication, copies of which are available from the Library of the House and the weblink as follows:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/criminal-annual.htm

English Language: Education

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the removal of full fee remission for students of English for Speakers of Other Languages. [55614]

Damian Green: My officials have had discussions with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills about provision for students of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). A separate assessment of how the changes from full funding for ESOL courses may affect ESOL learners is currently being carried out by Department of Business, Innovation and Skills who expect to be able to publish this before summer recess.

Entry Clearances: Balkans

Greg Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to announce the results of the review of the visa regime for Serbian and Macedonian nationals visiting the UK. [56188]

Damian Green: We are currently reviewing plans for the next visa waiver test. We will consider any changes to the visitor visa regimes in Serbia and Macedonia as part of that wider process. We have no plans to make any changes to the existing visa regimes before then.

Fines: Tobacco

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been fined for bringing in excess amounts of tobacco at UK ports of entry in the last 12 months. [52912]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

Although no records are available for the number of people fined for bringing in excess tobacco at British points of entry, a total of 39,588 seizures of cigarette and hand rolling tobacco were made in 2010-11.

Travellers who import for illicit resale in the UK are evading UK duty. Where such offences occur, the goods will be liable to forfeiture and the person involved may be liable for the duty evaded, a penalty of up to 100% of the potential lost revenue, and possibly further criminal sanctions.

Further information is available in the "Tackling Tobacco Smuggling" strategy, launched on 27 April 2011 and available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/tackling-tobacco.htm

Illegal Immigrants

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the implications for her Department's policies of the failure to detain or deport Mohammed Smoured. [55267]

Damian Green: Mohammed Smoured is a serious criminal and the UK Border Agency vigorously pursued his deportation from the UK. He was released from immigration detention by the courts despite strong objections from the UK Border Agency.

The internal review that followed this case demonstrated a need to tighten up processes. Lessons have been learned and the UK Border Agency has since rolled out new training programmes and guidance to support case workers in dealing with future cases in a more timely and efficient way.

Immigrants

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to assess the *(a)* effect on and *(b)* contribution to (i) health services, (ii) education services and (iii) other services of migrants. [55988]

Damian Green: I have tasked the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to research the labour market, social and public service impacts of non-EEA migration; and to advise on the use of such evidence in cost-benefit analyses of migration and policy decisions. This will provide evidence at the national level. Results from this work are expected in November 2011.

In addition I have asked Home Office analysts to scope the feasibility of identifying and measuring the social impacts of migration at the local level. We will work with local authorities and other local services to gain a better understanding of the issues and challenges facing public sector providers in terms of how they might identify different types of migrants and measure both their cost on public services and their contribution to the local community. This research will be undertaken over the course of 2011-12.

Missing Persons

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to implement the recommendations of the Missing Persons Taskforce; and if she will make a statement. [55851]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has carried out an assessment of the 22 recommendations in the Missing Persons Taskforce Review. Seven have already been delivered, action is under way on a further 10 and the remainder are subject to further consideration. We are working with our counterparts in other Government Departments to consider what further action is needed in this important area, taking account of other relevant developments including, for example, the Munro Review of Child Protection and the transfer of responsibility for missing children from the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) to Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP).

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the role of the police in the investigation of missing persons. [55852]

James Brokenshire: The police play an important role with regards to missing persons and are the lead agency in investigating missing persons incidents.

Identifying and ensuring the safest return possible for children and adults who go missing forms part of the police service's child protection and wider safeguarding role.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what responsibility the proposed National Crime Agency will have for missing persons. [55853]

James Brokenshire: On 10 May my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department announced that the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) will operate as part of the new National Crime Agency (NCA) and it has previously been agreed that this role will include responsibility for missing children services. This move will ensure that CEOP will be better positioned than ever before to tackle child sexual exploitation, tackle those who seek to harm children, and develop its vital work educating children and their carers on how to protect themselves.

Work is continuing to arrange the transfer of responsibility for missing children's services from the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) to CEOP. In turn, work is progressing to consider where responsibilities for missing adults services should sit in the future.

Offences against Children

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she plans to have with the Director of Public Prosecution on efforts to ensure that the Crown Prosecution Service improves its knowledge and practice in prosecuting cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation committed overseas. [55920]

James Brokenshire: The Government takes sexual offences committed against children very seriously. Section 72 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (as amended by the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008) extends extra territorial jurisdiction in relation to some sex offences committed against children whilst abroad by United Kingdom nationals and in cases involving dual criminality by United Kingdom residents. However it remains the case that such offences are best prosecuted where they occur. To this end the Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre (CEOP), through the work of its UK and Overseas Tracker Teams and in conjunction with UK police forces and overseas law enforcement agencies, engages with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to pursue tactical options in respect of UK nationals who travel overseas and abuse and/or exploit children and to increase their mutual knowledge of child sexual abuse cases, on both a practitioner and strategic management level.

The CPS considers every such case on its individual merits and applies the two-stage Full Code Test set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors when deciding whether to prosecute.

Offenders: Deportation

Greg Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the deportation of foreign national prisoners who are wanted for terrorist offences abroad. [55679]

Damian Green: Ministers have not had any recent discussions on the deportation of foreign national prisoners who are wanted for terrorist offences abroad. However, officials within the Home Office and Ministry of Justice are in regular contact.

Sexual Offences: EU Action

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she had had with her European counterparts on the progress of Europol's Project Haven to detect and disrupt European travelling sex offenders. [55919]

James Brokenshire: Action on combating child sex offences is a priority both domestically and at EU level. The Government have opted into the draft EU directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography which will set minimum standards for combating child sex offences across the EU. In addition, this month my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department has had discussions with the Director of Europol on the issue of travelling sex offenders to consider what further co-ordinated action might be taken at EU level.

I consider that the lessons learned from the initial phases of Project Haven were valuable, and the recommendations arising out of this and ongoing actions will be carried forward in the UK by the relevant bodies in conjunction with Europol.

Child protection is a priority for this Government and will be further strengthened when the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) becomes a core part of the National Crime Agency.

Stop and Search

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many searches of *(a)* persons and *(b)* vehicles under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 were carried out by each Metropolitan Police division in each of the last five years; and how many arrests for (i) possession of offensive weapons and (ii) other offences were made in each division as a result in each such year. [53510]

Nick Herbert: Data for the Metropolitan police on the use of this power are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Powers and Procedures".

Data are unavailable at a level below police force area. Current and previous copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Leader of the House how much his office spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56109]

Sir George Young: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons has not spent any money on the travel costs of my special adviser.

Electronic Government: Petitions

Diana Johnson: To ask the Leader of the House when he expects it to be possible to send an online petition to the Prime Minister via the Directgov website. [55600]

Sir George Young: The Government will move the online petition system from the No. 10 website to the DirectGov portal before the summer recess, and I will make a statement to the House.

EU Law: Parliamentary Scrutiny

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Leader of the House if he will *(a)* review the powers of the House of Commons to scrutinise EU Directives and *(b)* bring forward proposals to allow hon. Members to propose amendments to the draft regulations implementing EU Directives. [55609]

Sir George Young: As my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe noted in a written ministerial statement on 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 51-52WS, the Government are keen to explore new ways of scrutinising EU issues. He is in discussions with the European Scrutiny Committee and the House of Lords EU Select Committee about this. It is for Parliament to decide how it wants to take this forward with us.

In the meantime, the Government intend to continue discussions with the European Scrutiny Committee on its terms of reference and the terms of the House's Scrutiny Reserve Resolution.

Legal Aid: Reform

Alun Cairns: To ask the Leader of the House what timetable he has set for the passage of his proposed legislation to reform legal aid. [55993]

Sir George Young: The Government are committed to reforming the legal aid system to provide for a more efficient and sustainable scheme, in order to preserve the help available to those in our society who need it most. The Government will bring forward legislation on their proposals in due course.

HEALTH

Cardiovascular Services

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of national and local co-ordination in cardiovascular services to ensure integrated care for patients who have an acute myocardial infarction; [55470]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the provision of cardiovascular services in the NHS; and if he will make a statement; [55471]

(3) whether he has any plans to revise guidelines on the management of cardiovascular disease and its risk factors as part of NHS reforms. [55490]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for local national health service commissioners to ensure that there is integrated care available for patients who have an acute myocardial infarction. They need to assess their local population needs to determine the range and level of service provision required in their area.

There is a range of information publicly available to assist NHS commissioners to understand their local population needs and benchmark local services, including:

Local Cardiovascular Profiles—The South East Public Health Observatory has published cardiovascular profiles at regional and primary care trust level. These are intended to inform commissioning and planning decisions and enable commissioners to target resources most effectively to tackle cardiovascular disease and improve the health of local communities. They can be found at:

www.sepho.org.uk/CVDprofiles.aspx

The Central Cardiac Audit Database offers information to help health professionals and commissioners to continually measure and improve care by comparing their services to specific standards and national trends. Information about this can be found at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/services/national-clinical-audit-support-programme-ncasp/heart-disease

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued guidance to the NHS on the management of a number of conditions associated with cardiovascular disease. NICE routinely reviews its published guidance. A NICE Quality Standard on heart failure is expected to be published in June 2011.

Further information about NICE Quality Standards is available on the institute's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qualitystandards/qualitystandards.jsp

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure provision of specialist services for myalgic encephalomyelitis and chronic fatigue syndrome is maintained. [56165]

Paul Burstow: Primary care professionals coordinate the services that patients receive, helping them to navigate the system and ensure they get the best care. For this reason, they are best placed to coordinate those aspects of commissioning of care that will most benefit from their clinical insight and expertise, while involving all other clinical professionals who are also part of any pathway of care.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the proposed closure of the specialist inpatient service for myalgic encephalomyelitis and chronic fatigue syndrome at Queen's hospital, Romford; and if he will make a statement. [56166]

Paul Burstow: The Department has received numerous representations on the proposed closure of the specialist inpatient service for myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) and chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) at Queen's hospital, Romford. It is for the local national health service to provide services which best serve the needs of its local population.

The Department is not prescriptive about the type of services that should be provided by the local NHS for CFS/ME patients. However trusts must adhere to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines:

Every person diagnosed with CFS/ME should be offered:

information about the illness

acceptance and understanding

assistance negotiating the healthcare, benefits and social care systems

assistance with occupational activities including work and

education if appropriate

An individualised management plan should be developed with the person with CFS/ME, and their carers if appropriate. The plan should be reviewed and changes documented at each contact. It should include:

relevant symptoms and history

plans for care and treatment, including managing setbacks/relapses

information and support needs

any education, training or employment support needs

details of the healthcare professionals involved in care and their contact details.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Training

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that training in myalgic encephalomyelitis is included in all pre and post-registration training of health care professionals. [56163]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of health care training is the responsibility of the independent regulatory bodies.

Through their role as the custodians of quality standards in education and practice, these organisations are committed to ensuring high quality patient care delivered by high quality health professionals and that health care professionals are equipped with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to deal with the problems and conditions they will encounter in practice.

Continuing Care

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people in each primary care trust were in receipt of NHS continuing health care funding in 2010; and if he will make a statement; [55639]

(2) how many people in receipt of NHS continuing health care in each primary care trust have had such funding withdrawn in the last 12 months; how many had such funding reinstated on appeal; and if he will make a statement; [55640]

(3) if he will assess the potential effects on the National Framework for NHS continuing health care of the proposed reforms to the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [55641]

Paul Burstow: Information on the number of people in receipt of continuing health care, in December 2010, broken down by primary care trust (PCT) is given in the following table.

2010-11, quarter 3

Organisation code	*Organisation name*	*Number*
5D7	Newcastle PCT	157
5D8	North Tyneside PCT	183
5D9	Hartlepool PCT	116
5E1	North Tees PCT	294
5J9	Darlington PCT	250
5KF	Gateshead PCT	197
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	165
5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	512
5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	105
5ND	County Durham PCT	806
5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	60
TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	566
5CC/TAP	Blackburn and Darwen PCT/ Teaching Care Plus	54
5F5	Salford PCT	309
5F7	Stockport PCT	263
5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	440
5HP	Blackpool PCT	76
5HQ	Bolton PCT	337
5J2	Warrington PCT	182
5J4	Knowsley PCT	220
5J5	Oldham PCT	268
5JX	Bury PCT	98
5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	185
5NE	Cumbria PCT	457
5NF	North Lancashire PCT	455
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	378
5NH	East Lancashire Teaching PCT	236
5NJ	Sefton PCT	199
5NK	Wirral PCT	249
5NL	Liverpool PCT	437
5NM	Halton and St Helens PCT	398
5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	147
5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	376
5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	127
5NR	Trafford PCT	98
5NT	Manchester PCT	419
5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	174
5H8	Rotherham PCT	287
5J6	Calderdale PCT	257
5JE	Barnsley PCT	307
5N1	Leeds PCT	835
5N2	Kirklees PCT	478
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	206
5N4	Sheffield PCT	1,255
5N5	Doncaster PCT	425
5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,063
5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	206
5NX	Hull Teaching PCT	399

2010-11, quarter 3

Organisation code	*Organisation name*	*Number*
5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	528
TAN	North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	222
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	175
5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	69
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	810
5N7	Derby City PCT	222
5N8	Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	557
5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	869
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	764
5PC	Leicester City PCT	373
5PD	Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	716
5CN	Herefordshire PCT	307
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	341
5M2	Shropshire County PCT	447
5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	337
5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	384
5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	209
5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	354
5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	189
5PE	Dudley PCT	169
5PF	Sandwell PCT	137
5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	563
5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	249
5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	231
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	468
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	411
5PM	Warwickshire PCT	753
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	315
5GC	Luton PCT	91
5P1	South East Essex PCT	420
5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	155
5PN	Peterborough PCT	255
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	392
5PQ	Norfolk PCT	658
5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	311
5PT	Suffolk PCT	737
5PV	West Essex PCT	258
5PW	North East Essex PCT	145
5PX	Mid Essex PCT	110
5PY	South West Essex PCT	452
5QV	Hertfordshire PCT	743
5A4	Havering PCT	219
5A5	Kingston PCT	175
5A7	Bromley PCT	335
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	173
5A9	Barnet PCT	332
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	234
5C1	Enfield PCT	267
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	370
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	150
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	212
5C5	Newham PCT	290
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	353
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	125
5HX	Ealing PCT	320
5HY	Hounslow PCT	204
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	242
5K6	Harrow PCT	196
5K7	Camden PCT	238
5K8	Islington PCT	125
5K9	Croydon PCT	372
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	215
5LC	Westminster PCT	169
5LD	Lambeth PCT	227
5LE	Southwark PCT	156
5LF	Lewisham PCT	133
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	148
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	95
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	333
5NA	Redbridge PCT	308
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	307
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	169
5L3	Medway PCT	133
5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	129
5P5	Surrey PCT	935
5P6	West Sussex PCT	626
5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	420
5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	101
5P9	West Kent PCT	539
5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	995
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	121
5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	270
5L1	Southampton City PCT	201
5QC	Hampshire PCT	857
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	552
5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	290
5QF	Berkshire West PCT	164
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	333
5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	222
5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	230
5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	470
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	193
5K3	Swindon PCT	129
5M8	North Somerset PCT	211
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	623
5QJ	Bristol PCT	368
5QK	Wiltshire PCT	490
5QL	Somerset PCT	600
5QM	Dorset PCT	426
5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	318
5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	978
5QQ	Devon PCT	864
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	184

Information on the number of people in receipt of continuing health care who have had their funding withdrawn is not collected centrally.

It is anticipated that there will be no changes to the sections of the framework covering the eligibility criteria for continuing health care. However, the sections covering the statutory powers of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities will be rewritten to reflect the proposed reforms which will move these powers to general practitioner consortia and the NHS Commissioning Board respectively.

Departmental Pay

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional pay he plans to provide to officials in his Department in the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2013 to reflect *(a)* seniority, *(b)* promotion and *(c)* performance. [55414]

Mr Simon Burns: For the period in question, the only officials in the Department eligible for base pay increases are those earning under £21,000. The Department's pay systems are performance-related and do not reward staff for seniority.

The provision of pay for promotion will depend on the number of promotions which take place in the period in question, which is difficult to predict. Staff would normally receive a 10% pay uplift following promotion to the next grade. The Department usually operates promotion gateways or boards, but these are currently suspended while the Department works through the implications of its transition programme.

These promotions will be strictly controlled and are likely to be few in number in the current climate. Numbers of promotions cannot be predicted in advance as they are dependent on contingent business needs. The arrangements for non-consolidated performance-related pay for non-senior civil service staff are subject to the Treasury's annual civil service pay guidance. The overall 'pot' of money set aside for this will not increase in 2011-12 nor in 2012-13. Non-consolidated performance-related pay for senior civil service (SCS) staff is determined within a framework set by the Cabinet Office. The overall 'pot' for such awards will decrease in 2011-12.

The two-year pay freeze for the SCS started in April 2010 and for the rest of the Department's civil servants (the integrated structure, i.e. grades administrative officer to grade 6) this freeze will start in August 2011.

Diseases: Health Services

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his proposed NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for commissioning services for rare diseases. [55935]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill sets out the intention for the NHS Commissioning Board to take responsibility for the commissioning of specialised services for very rare conditions. These specialised services are currently commissioned at both a national and regional level.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of the treatment of rare diseases in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [55936]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally by the Department.

Diseases: Research

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has made changes to the methodology for assessing disease-specific research and development spending in the last five years. [55436]

Mr Simon Burns: Recent figures for disease-specific research and development (R and D) spend reflect a more transparent and accurate method for assessing this expenditure.

Prior to the establishment of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in April 2006, the main part of the Department's total health expenditure was devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. From April 2006 to March 2009, transitional research funding was allocated to these organisations at reducing levels. At the same time, an increasing amount of NHS research funding was awarded competitively through new NIHR programmes and schemes. The NHS organisations reported on their use of these allocations in annual R and D reports, and each report included figures for research spend in a range of disease areas. These figures have been included in any estimates made by the Department of total annual research spend in these disease areas up to 2008-09.

The Department is increasing its routine monitoring of NIHR expenditure across all therapeutic areas.

e-Cigarettes

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the use of e-cigarettes. [55636]

Anne Milton: In March 2011, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) published the Government's response to the consultation on the regulation of nicotine-containing products, which includes e-cigarettes. The MHRA also announced that it will co-ordinate a period of further scientific and market research to inform decisions about the regulation of nicotine-containing products.

Fluoride: Drinking Water

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local authorities require the fluoridation of their local water supply. [55762]

Anne Milton: Although the Health and Social Care Bill proposes that responsibility for consultations on proposals for fluoridation schemes should transfer to local authorities, currently strategic health authorities (SHAs) are responsible for contracting with water companies to fluoridate water supplies. Therefore, the information held centrally on which areas are fluoridated is by SHA/primary care trust (PCT) as in the following table:

SHA/PCT	*Percentage of population with fluoridated water supply*
East of England SHA	
Bedford PCT	100
West Midlands SHA	
Redditch and Bromsgrove PCT	91
North Warwickshire PCT	100
South Warwickshire PCT	68
Rugby PCT	100
South Worcestershire PCT	32
Coventry PCT	85
Castle and Beacon PCT	100

SHA/PCT	*Percentage of population with fluoridated water supply*
Dudley South PCT	61
South Birmingham PCT	100
Solihull PCT	100
Wednesbury and West Bromwich PCT	100
North Birmingham PCT	100
Rowley Regis and Tipton PCT	100
Wolverhampton City PCT	100
Walsall Area PCT	100
Oldbury and Smethwick PCT	100
East Birmingham PCT	100
Heart of Birmingham PCT	100
Cannock Chase PCT	100
East Staffordshire PCT	100
South West Staffordshire PCT	53
Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT	100
East Midlands SHA	
West Lincolnshire PCT	100
Bassetlaw PCT	100
Ashfield PCT	100
Mansfield PCT	100
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	
North Lincolnshire PCT	75
North East SHA	
North Tyneside PCT	[1]50 + 50
Gateshead PCT	[2]100
Newcastle PCT	100
Hartlepool PCT	100
North West SHA	
Central Cheshire PCT	52
West Cumbria PCX	100

[1] Variable low.
[2] Virtually.

General Practitioners

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of geographical boundaries determining eligibility for GP registration following the implementation of his plans for GP commissioning. [55766]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's health reforms aim to put patients at the heart of the national health service by giving them more choice and control over their health care, including the ability to choose their general practitioner (GP) practice.

The current system of geographical boundaries can restrict patients' ability to register with a GP practice which meets their needs and aspirations. The White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" committed to give every patient a clear right to choose to register with any GP practice they want with an open list, without being restricted by where they live. A national consultation showed overwhelming support from the public for this flexibility, with over 70% of the public who commented in favour. We are currently considering issues raised in the consultation and will discuss with the profession in the normal way any proposed changes to existing arrangements.

Health Services: Prisoners

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on the provision of health services to prisoners of the implementation of proposed reforms to commissioning in the NHS. [55512]

Paul Burstow: The Government are currently pausing, listening and reflecting to improve plans regarding the Health and Social Care Bill. The Bill proposes that the NHS Commissioning Board will bring about considerable reform to the national health service and have a direct impact as to how services for the offender population may be delivered and received in future.

Offenders are entitled to expect, and receive, the same quality of treatments and services from the NHS as anyone else. The NHS is—and must remain—about equitable service provision for all citizens, not least offenders.

We need robust offender health and criminal justice programmes in place. The public expects this and improved health and well-being outcomes for offenders will come from reducing health inequalities and reoffending through prevention, early intervention and having effective diversion from custody services.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners have been granted access to private health care services paid from *(a)* private means and *(b)* the public purse in each of the last five years. [55547]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect this information.

The commissioning of prison health care transferred from the Prison Service to the national health service in 2006. It is the responsibility of local NHS primary care trusts to commission and provide services for their offender population.

Heart Diseases: Children

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of the Safe and Sustainable review issued by the NHS Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts. [55759]

Mr Simon Burns: The Safe and Sustainable review of children's heart services in England is being conducted by the NHS Specialised Commissioning Team. The Department has therefore made no estimate of the cost of the review.

The programme is ongoing so costs are still being incurred, and will be incurred up to the decision later this year. The intention is to publish the final costs once the process is complete.

Heart Diseases: Rehabilitation

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the availability in the NHS of cardiac rehabilitation for people after they have had a heart attack; and if he will make a statement. [55469]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not made an assessment of the availability in the national health service of cardiac rehabilitation for people after they have had a heart attack. It is a matter for NHS organisations to plan and develop services based on their specific local knowledge and expertise.

Information on cardiac rehabilitation services is available in the latest National Audit of Cardiac Rehabilitation's (NACR) annual report which can be found on NACR's website:

www.cardiacrehabilitation.org.uk/nacr/docs/2010.pdf

There is also a range of information publicly available to assist NHS commissioners, including a commissioning pack which can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/Browsable/DH_117504

Hepatitis: Scotland

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Scottish Executive on the Scottish public inquiry into hepatitis C/HIV acquired infections from NHS treatment in Scotland involving contaminated blood and blood products. [55415]

Anne Milton: We have had no discussions about the inquiry with Scottish Ministers. The Department is co-operating with the inquiry team and has responded to a number of requests from the inquiry for copies of relevant official documents.

National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse: Public Appointments

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who he plans to appoint to conduct the peer review of the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse and the National Addiction Centre; and who will be responsible for the selection of the peer review panel reports on addiction to prescribed over-the-counter medicines. [55603]

Anne Milton: Departmental officials appointed three independent experts with international reputations in the fields of pain management, addiction and pharmacy to peer review the draft reports on addiction to medicine that were commissioned by the Department. In order to maintain the integrity and confidentiality of the peer review process, the identity of peer reviewers is not disclosed.

The peer-reviewed reports were published on 11 May. Copies have already been placed in the Library.

NHS: Drugs

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his planned system of value-based pricing for medicines will include medicines for the treatment of rare diseases; and if he will make a statement. [55934]

Mr Simon Burns: We set out our proposals for a new value-based approach to the pricing of medicines in the consultation document, "A new value-based approach to the pricing of branded medicines". The consultation which closed on 17 March 2011, stated in Paragraph 4.4,

> "As we develop and refine the value-based pricing model, we will pay particular, careful attention to the potential impact on special groups of medicines. It may be appropriate to apply slightly different arrangements to some medicines, as is the case now. For example, some drugs that treat very rare conditions are currently funded through the arrangements for the national commissioning of specialised services. However, the presumption will be towards designing the system in a way that minimises the need for parallel mechanisms."

Through the consultation we sought views on whether there are types or groups of medicines, for example, those that treat very rare conditions, which should be better dealt with through separate arrangements outside value-based pricing.

We are considering the consultation responses and will publish our response to the consultation in due course.

Organs: Donors

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the report of the arm's-length bodies review, what plans his Department has for the regulation of live donor organ transplants currently regulated by the Human Tissue Authority. [55563]

Anne Milton: One of the principal aims of the arm's length bodies review is to streamline and simplify regulation. To help achieve this, our preferred option is to transfer all of the functions of the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) to the Care Quality Commission apart from any research-related functions, which the proposed Health Research Authority may take on. The Government will be consulting in the late summer on this and other options as to where functions currently carried out by the HTA would best sit in the future.

Patients: Transport

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to prevent misuse of hospital transport by those who do not have a valid medical reason to use the service. [55794]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has issued clear eligibility guidance for the use of non-emergency patient transport services (PTS) that makes clear that PTS should only be awarded to those patients with a medical need for transportation. It is for the national health service to determine locally a patient's eligibility for PTS either by a health care professional or by non-clinically qualified staff who are both:

clinically supervised and/or working within locally agreed protocols or guidelines; and

employed by the NHS or working under contract for the NHS.

Primary Care Trusts: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has prepared a risk assessment for the proposed reorganisation of the NHS in the Heart of Birmingham Primary Care Trust area. [55541]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department conducted an impact assessment alongside the Health and Social Care Bill. This estimates the effects of the modernisation at national level, and includes discussion of the risks and how they can be mitigated. We do not have a regional breakdown of these predicted effects. The impact assessment is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

and a copy has already been placed in the Library.

Smoking

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the smoking prevalence rate is in Crewe and Nantwich constituency. [55511]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the format requested. The Department does not hold information on smoking prevalence at constituency or primary care trust level.

Information on prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex, country, and Government office region of England in 1998 to 2009 is contained within Table 1.11 of the General Lifestyle Survey 'Smoking and Drinking among adults, 2009', published by the Office for National Statistics. This publication is available on the Office for National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_compendia/GLF09/GeneralLifestyleSurvey2009.pdf

A copy of this publication has already been placed in the Library.

Table 3.1a of 'Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2009' shows smoking behaviour among young people aged 11 to 15 by sex for the period 1982 to 2000. Table 3.1b shows the same information for the period 2001-09. These data are available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/sdd09fullreport

A copy of this publication has been placed in the Library.

South London Healthcare NHS Trust: Restructure

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 842W, on South London Healthcare NHS Trust: restructure, what representations he has received on the potential restructuring of South London Healthcare NHS Trust since January 2011. [55479]

Mr Simon Burns: Further to my written answer of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 842W, a search has been made of the Department of Health correspondence database between 1 January 2011 to 13 May 2011 which has found five items of correspondence.

One letter has been received from the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (James Brokenshire), three letters from my hon. Friend the Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr Evennett), and one from a constituent of his.

Tattooing

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the merits of establishing a nationally recognised training and accreditation scheme for the tattooing and piercing industries; and if he will make a statement. [55477]

Anne Milton: We have no plans to establish a national training and accreditation scheme for the tattooing and cosmetic piercing industries. Practitioners, their professional organisations, industry bodies, training bodies and enforcement authorities are best placed to work together to agree on suitable standards of good practice and competency.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Coal Gasification

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on coal gasification as an alternative fuel source. [56167]

Charles Hendry: The potential of underground coal gasification (UGC) is recognised and it could make an important contribution in future, but the technology for UGC is still in its early stages.

As the freehold owner of the coal resource, our non-departmental public body, the Coal Authority, has lead responsibility with respect to the licensing of potential UGC projects. Along with the authority we continue to monitor developments in the sector.

Energy: Housing

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the use of data matching for the purposes of targeting energy efficiency measures at priority households other than pensioners. [56151]

Gregory Barker: DECC and DWP Ministers and officials are working closely together on data matching as an important part of the policy development and planning for the Core Group of the Warm Home Discount Scheme. The scheme will involve data matching DWP pension credit data with energy suppliers' customer data to give recipients a rebate on their energy bills. This follows the successful delivery of the pilot 2010 Energy Rebate Scheme (ERS), which led to over 200,000 older poorer pensioners receiving a discount of £80 off their electricity bill.

Data matching for the Core Group of Warm Home Discount will involve a significantly larger client group than that used for ERS. This will lead to significant technical, security, operational and policy challenges. To seek to expand the scope of data matching before evaluating this wider use of existing powers would constitute a significant delivery risk.

In addition, the Government are currently developing proposals for a fundamental reform of the working age benefits regime. The additional groups proposed for data marching by respondents to the Warm Home Discount consultation are likely to change significantly. We need to ensure that any further data matching powers would be durable and deliverable.

The Government are not considering widening data matching powers at this stage.

CABINET OFFICE

Businesses: Transition Fund

Mr Timpson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many organisations in Crewe and Nantwich constituency have applied for an allocation from the Transition Fund. [55509]

Mr Hurd: There were no applications to the Transition Fund from organisations in the Crewe and Nantwich constituency.

Charities

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office by what date he expects his review of the Charities Act 2006 to be completed. [56126]

Mr Hurd: A person must be appointed before 8 November 2011 to undertake an independent review of the Charities Act 2006, as required under section 73 of that Act. The timetable for the review itself has not been finalised, but the review is likely to take between six and nine months, concluding in 2012. Once completed, the report of the review must be laid before Parliament.

Charities: Higher Education

Helen Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the potential changes to charity law in connection with the ability of public schools to sponsor off-quota places at universities. [55789]

Mr Hurd: The forthcoming Higher Education White Paper will consult on options for introducing off-quota recruitment. Following the consultation there will be discussions between ministerial colleagues on taking forward any proposed options, including any changes to the law that are considered necessary.

Citizenship: Young People

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which National Citizen Service pilot projects charge participants to take part; and how much each such project charges per participant. [54974]

Mr Hurd: 12 providers are running National Citizen Service (NCS) pilots in 2011. The NCS pilot programme aims to test a range of different approaches to the delivery of the core NCS programme. One of the dimensions we are seeking to test is the impact of levying a small charge on participants. Half of the 2011 pilot providers are levying a charge for participation while the other half are not. Those providers levying a charge offer a range of discounts and bursaries, and are required to ensure that financial cost is not a barrier to participation for any young person who wishes to take part. The maximum charges by NCS provider are shown in the following table.

Pilot provider	*Charge?*	*Maximum charge (£)*
Bolton Lads and Girls Club	Yes	20
Catch22	Yes	50
Challenge Network	Yes	50
Connexions Cumbria	No	—
Field Studies Council	Yes	95
Football League Trust	Yes	50
Lincolnshire and Rutland EBP	No	—
Norfolk NCS Consortium	Yes	99
Prince's Trust	No	—
Safe in Tees Valley	No	—
V and Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust	No	—
Young Devon and South West Consortium	No	—

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the average amount that a young person will pay to participate in a National Citizen Service pilot. [54975]

Mr Hurd: Over 4,400 National Citizen Service pilot places in 2011 will be offered by providers levying no charge for participants. The remainder of places will be offered according to each provider's fee scale, which in all cases allow for discounts and bursaries according to participants' ability to pay. Since so many participants will not pay a fee to participate, it is not appropriate to estimate the average amount payable per participant, but the range of maximum fees levied by those pilots charging a fee is between £20 and £99. Those providers levying a charge offer a range of discounts and bursaries, and are required to ensure that financial cost is not a barrier to participation for any young person who wishes to take part.

In all cases the fee charged for participation is a small proportion of the total cost of providing a National Citizen Service place.

Graduates: Unemployment

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the rate of graduate unemployment is in *(a)* England, *(b)* Liverpool and *(c)* Liverpool West, Derby constituency. [55590]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the rate of graduate unemployment is in (a) England, (b) Liverpool and (c) Liverpool West, Derby constituency. (55590)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Unfortunately the sample size does not support analyses of graduate unemployment for Liverpool and Liverpool West, Derby constituency.

Unemployment rates are normally based on the proportion of economically active aged 16 and over who are unemployed. However, questions on qualifications are not asked of all people above state pension age. Therefore the analysis has been restricted to those aged between 16 and 64 years.

According to APS figures, the rate of graduate unemployment for people aged 16 to 64 years, in England for the 12 month period January to December 2009 was 4.3%.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Public Sector: Pay

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether outsourced services solely funded by the public purse will be subject to the public sector pay differential proposals. [36960]

Mr Maude: Even where outsourced services are funded solely by the public purse, the organisations providing these contracted services are mostly private sector entities and they are not funded entirely from the public purse. Therefore, while the contract terms for service provision fall within the scope of the Government's procurement activity, the structure and remuneration of the private sector staff does not and is a matter for individual companies.

Voluntary Organisations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent progress the ministerial working group on the big society has made; and if he will make a statement. [51767]

Mr Hurd: The informal ministerial group on big society and localism shares ideas and supports progress across government on cross-cutting issues such as the role of the voluntary sector in service delivery, the progress of the big society in vanguard areas, community budgets, and the compact between the voluntary sector and the state.

Progress on the big society is already taking shape, with 21 mutual pathfinders across public services, 12 organisations already appointed to run the 2011 National Citizen Service pilots, and new ideas on giving and volunteering in the Giving Green Paper.

JUSTICE

Criminal Justice System

18. **Andrew Bridgen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase the efficiency of the criminal justice system. [55686]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I am working closely with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Attorney-General to develop proposals to tackle inefficiency, so that we can have a more productive criminal justice system. Examples of these include streamlining the administration of cases; making greater use of video-links; and extending digital working. I will bring detailed plans to the House later this year.

Legal Aid Reform

19. **Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish the response to his Department's consultation on the reform of legal aid. [55687]

Mr Djanogly: We intend to publish the response to consultation as soon as possible after Whitsun recess.

Legal Aid: Funding

20. **Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in the legal aid budget on the availability of legal advice for those on low incomes in Newcastle upon Tyne. [55688]

Mr Djanogly: We published impact assessments alongside the consultation paper. However, these do not contain analysis of any specific geographies.

Restorative Justice

21. **Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the use of restorative justice to reduce the level of offending; and if he will make a statement. [55689]

Mr Blunt: We are committed to increasing use of restorative justice. It makes offenders face up to the consequences of their crime, and provides victims the opportunity to seek reparation and move on from the crime they have suffered. There is growing evidence of its potential to cut reoffending and crime.

Sentencing: Crime Rates

22. **Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects on crime rates of *(a)* community sentences and *(b)* custodial sentences. [55690]

Mr Blunt: We published on 10 May 2011 a report comparing adult reoffending rates for different types of sentence. This showed that offenders who received sentences of less than 12 months had higher reoffending rates than similar offenders who received community orders. When specifically comparing different lengths of custodial sentence for similar offenders, longer sentences had lower reoffending rates.

Charter of Fundamental Rights (EU)

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government was represented at the Fourth Meeting of the Fundamental Rights Platform held by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in April 2011. [55534]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Fundamental Rights Platform of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights is a network of civil society and non-governmental organisations active in the field of fundamental rights. Government representatives do not normally attend meetings of the platform and therefore the Government were not represented at the meeting.

Custody: Death

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to reduce the waiting time for inquests into deaths in custody. [55722]

Mr Djanogly: The coroner's inquest into a death in custody is the hearing which fulfils our obligations under article 2 of the European convention on human rights. Few such inquests take place until all other investigations have been completed. From 2012, we will be publishing data on the number of deaths in each category of custody in the annual statistics on deaths reported to coroners which will provide greater transparency about these inquests. The Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody and the Coroners' Society of England and Wales are also working together to develop a series of recommendations to address inquest delays. We are also committed to improving the coroner system and intend to achieve this through implementation of key provisions within part 1 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. Subject to parliamentary agreement, this will include removing rigid geographical boundary restrictions so that inquests can be transferred between coroners more easily to tackle and avoid delays.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55885]

Mr Blunt: In line with the Government's fair payment guidance the Ministry of Justice has included a clause within its terms and conditions of contract requiring contractors to enter a clause in any subcontracts to ensure that the prompt payment provisions are passed through the supply chain. The clause is reproduced as follows.

> 1.1. Where the Contractor enters into a sub-contract with a supplier or contractor for the purpose of performing its obligations under the Contract, it shall ensure that a provision is included in such a sub-contract which requires payment to be made of all sums due by the Contractor to the sub-contractor within a specified period not exceeding 30 days from the receipt of a valid invoice provided always that the Contractor has been paid by the Authority.

Compliance with this requirement is monitored in the course of routine contract management.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56067]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: There are several suppliers:

Her Majesty's Prison Service: *(a)* HP provides services using Orange, Vodafone, and O2 for mobile telephony, *(b)* HP provides services using O2 and Vodafone to provide mobile data as the network suppliers.

Probation Services: Steria provide services through Vodafone.

Outside of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), Vodafone and Orange provide both mobile telephony and mobile data for MOJ's Disc Infrastructure Renewal Programme. This includes the arm's length bodies (ALBs), (although ALBs will probably have their own legacy mobile contracts).

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many independent domestic violence adviser posts funded in whole or in part by his Department are based in voluntary organisations. [55922]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice is funding 33 voluntary organisations which between them will provide 44 dedicated court-based independent domestic violence advisers to support victims of domestic abuse. This funding stems from the Victim and Witness General Fund, announced in January 2011 and will last for three years.

In addition to this, 28 services providing 30 advisers for victims in specialist domestic violence court systems will be funded during 2011-2012. This funding stems from the Victim Surcharge. Most of these grants are paid to local authorities employing voluntary services to provide the adviser post.

Driving Offences

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of motorists involved in an incident leading to the *(a)* death and *(b)* serious injury of a cyclist received (i) a custodial sentence, (ii) a fine, (iii) a community service order and (iv) another sentence in each of the last three years. [55779]

Mr Blunt: It is not possible to identify from prosecutions for motoring offences involving the death or injury of a person, those cases where the victim was a cyclist. Data collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice do not include information about the circumstances of each case other than those which may be identified from a statute

Legal Advice and Assistance: Mental Health

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether family law matter starts will be redistributed among providers who are running out of matter starts and may not be in a position to represent patients who are detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and who ask for their services. [55848]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales.

The LSC regularly reviews provider capacity and matter start allocations. In the event of gaps in access being identified in any category of law, including mental health, the LSC will take appropriate action to address these, taking into account the specific circumstances of the geographic area.

Matter starts for family work cannot be used for mental health cases. Therefore there will be no redistribution of matter starts from family to mental health.

Legal Aid

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received legal aid services in *(a)* Barnsley Central constituency and *(b)* South Yorkshire in 2010. [55589]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales.

The LSC does not record the number of people who receive legal aid, but instead records the number of 'acts of assistance'. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

The following table shows the number of acts of assistance delivered by legal aid providers with postcodes falling within Barnsley Central constituency during 2009-10. All acts of assistance are based on the solicitor's location, which may not reflect where the client is based. The figures do not include legal aid received via telephone, the housing possession court duty scheme, or family mediation, as these figures are not available on a constituency level.

Assistance type	*Number*
Crime Lower claims	3,851
Legal Help New Matter Starts	2,445
Civil Representation certificates issued	656
Crime Higher closed cases	602

The LSC is currently collating data relating to South Yorkshire. I will write to the hon. Member once the information has been verified and place a copy in the Library of the House.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many civil legal aid acts of assistance there were in Warrington North constituency for each type of case in the last year for which figures are available. [56036]

Mr Djanogly: There were no civil acts of assistance delivered by legal aid providers with postcodes falling within Warrington North constituency during 2009-10. All acts of assistance are based on the provider's location, which may not reflect where the client is based. Figures for legal aid received via telephone, the Housing Possession Court Duty scheme, or family mediation, are not available on a constituency level.

Legal Aid: Mental Health

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which mental health providers of legal aid contracts have failed their key performance indicator review; and what the outcome was of those reviews; [55849]

(2) whether key performance indicator reviews have been carried out in respect of those mental health providers of legal aid contracts which are unlikely to use 80% of their family law matters starts in the current contract period. [55850]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales.

The LSC does not hold the information requested. Review of performance as measured by key performance indicators in the relevant contract is continuous rather than at set stages. The current round of contracts commenced in November 2010 and therefore performance under those contracts is still at a relatively early stage.

The LSC works collaboratively with providers in the event of any concerns, taking into account individual circumstances, and with an emphasis on improving performance rather than sanctions.

Prison Sentences

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his Department's 2011 compendium of re-offending statistics and analysis, page 16, if he will draw to the attention of the Sentencing Council the finding in respect of re-offending of *(a)* offenders given immediate custodial sentences of two years or more but less than four years and *(b)* offenders who received immediate custodial sentences of one year or more but less than two years. [55757]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice already makes available a wide range of data on sentencing and offender management to the Sentencing Council. This covers both published statistics, including the compendium of re-offending statistics, and data to support the council's statutory duty to have regard to the cost of different sentences and their relative effectiveness in preventing reoffending.

Prisoners' Release

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans to review the Parole Board's process for determining when individuals serving an indeterminate public protection sentence should be released. [55426]

Mr Blunt: On 7 December 2010 we published proposals in the Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders", for public consultation. These proposals included the reform of sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPPs).

As now, offenders who have completed their minimum term will still have to undergo a risk assessment before being considered for release and the Parole Board will consider whether each individual case is suitable for release on licence. We are, however, exploring whether a new test for those who have served their punishment would focus indefinite imprisonment on those who clearly pose a very serious risk of future harm. These proposals have been published on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gov.uk

Consultation ended on 4 March 2011; the Government's response will be published shortly.

Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many unauthorised items were confiscated from prisoners in each prison in each of the last five years; [55558]

(2) how many *(a)* mobile phones, *(b)* knives and other unauthorised sharp instruments, *(c)* items containing alcohol, *(d)* pornographic materials and *(e)* drugs have been confiscated from prisoners in each of the last five years. [55559]

Mr Blunt: Items confiscated from prisoners are recorded on the Prison Service Incident Reporting System but in a format that cannot readily be interrogated electronically. To provide the information requested would involve the manual inspection of more than 79,000 incident records for the five financial years concerned which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Film

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the cost to the public purse was of providing licences from *(a)* the Motion Picture Licensing Corporation and *(b)* Filmbank for the public performance of films in prison establishments in each of the last 10 years; [55531]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of providing audio and visual entertainment to prisoners in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public was of purchasing *(a)* DVDs, *(b)* CDs, *(c)* televisions, *(d)* audio playback equipment and *(e)* other entertainment equipment for use by prisoners in each of the last 10 years; [55532]

(3) what the cost to the public purse was of the purchase of television licences for the prison establishment in each of the last 10 years. [55533]

Mr Blunt: The current National Offender Management Service (NOMS) accounting system was introduced in the fiscal year 2005-06; to interrogate records before this time would be at disproportionate cost.

NOMS has purchased a single national licence from Motion Picture Licensing Corporation (MPLC) since 2006-07 and from Filmbank since 2007-08. Prior to those dates, only limited local licences were purchased.

Establishment licence costs from the public purse for MPLC and Filmbank are as follows:

£

	Fiscal year					
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
MPLC	411.25	264,333.87	280,697.64	297,805.18	300,613.80	316,628.61
Filmbank	440.64	88.13	39,715.00	39,773.75	39,100.00	46,882.50

Costs for these licences are being phased out and are restricted to those establishments still awaiting digital switchover. The switchover will be completed during 2012 and is being financed from prisoner in-cell television payments.

Costs from the public purse for providing audio and visual entertainment to prisoners, specifically, DVDs, CDs, televisions, audio playback equipment and other entertainment equipment are not separately identifiable within the NOMS accounting system, as there is not a specific account code for this type of purchase. The cost of providing televisions in cells is met from the weekly payments made by prisoners who are eligible for this privilege and choose to have a television in their cells.

In-cell television is exempt from the TV licence. Some establishments have televisions in public and/or staff areas for which a single licence per establishment is required. No central record is held of how many establishments have a licence.

Restraint Techniques

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to revise the national control and restraint guidelines for the prison service following the recommendations by the coroner in the Godfrey Moyo inquest. [55723]

Mr Blunt: The coroner in the inquest of Mr Godfrey Moyo made a report to the Ministry of Justice under Coroner's Rule 43 asking for consideration to be given by the National Offender Management Service to reviewing the medical arrangements for prisoners with epilepsy and the response of discipline staff to prisoners who have suffered an epileptic seizure.

National Control and Restraint (C&R) policy and training provides extensive guidance on how to identify warning signs during C&R which might indicate that a prisoner is experiencing a medical emergency. Work is under way with medical advisers and organisations such as Epilepsy Action to make this guidance and training even more comprehensive.

C&R is used in all prison and young offender institutions. It is an important tool in maintaining control and order and for the protection of prisoners, staff and visitors. There were in excess of 16,000 incidents requiring the use of C&R in 2010. Despite the death of Mr Moyo in 2005, it has proved to be a very safe system for enabling violent and dangerous prisoners to be restrained while minimising the risk of injury to staff or prisoners.

Tribunal Service

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average waiting time for a hearing in each part of the Tribunal Service was *(a)* on the latest date for which information is available and *(b)* in May 2010. [56035]

Mr Djanogly: There are, including the Upper Tribunal Chambers, 31 tribunal jurisdictions within Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). To provide the average waiting time for each of these could be done only at disproportionate cost. The three largest jurisdictions within HMCTS, social security and child support (SSCS), immigration and asylum, and employment tribunals accounted for 92% of receipts for the business year 2009-10. The following table shows the average waiting for these jurisdictions. The latest date for which information is available is December 2010.

Average waiting time for social security and child support, immigration and asylum, and employment tribunals, May 2010 and December 2010

	Average time in weeks	
	May 2010[1]	*December 2010*[1]
Social Security and Child Support[2]	16.8	19.0
Immigration and Asylum[3]	17.4	11.8
Employment Tribunals[4]	31.4	29.0

[1] In month.

[2] Average time from date of receipt in HMCTS to date of first hearing. Not all cases heard.

[3] Average time from date of receipt in HMCTS to date of first substantive hearing.

[4] Average taken from date of receipt of claim in HMCTS to date of first hearing. These data refer to both single claims (involving only one claimant) and multiple cases where two or more people bring cases involving one or more jurisdictions usually against a single employer.

Waiting times within the SSCS jurisdiction have been increasing due to recent changes in the welfare benefit system. This explains why the average waiting time from receipt of the appeal at the SSCS to the first hearing has increased from 16.8 weeks in May 2010 to 19.0 weeks in December 2010. The SSCS Tribunal has continued to respond strongly to the significant increase in appeals. As the volumes of receipts have increased, so has the capacity of the tribunal to deal with them. It is increasing its capacity through the recruitment of additional staff, judicial medical tribunal members as well as a range of business improvements.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Absent Voting

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many postal ballots were issued for elections held on 5 May 2011 in *(a)* England, *(b)* Cheshire West and Chester council and *(c)* City of Chester constituency. [55569]

Mr Harper: Returning officers in England have a statutory duty to send to the Electoral Commission a statement which includes the total number of postal ballot papers issued. This must happen in the period between 10 and 15 working days after the close of the poll. I understand that the Commission plans to publish both local and national statistics on the issue of postal ballot packs at the 5 May polls in its report on the administration of the polls, due for publication in October.

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on what grounds returning officers were allowed to disqualify postal ballots at the verification stage; and how many ballot papers were disqualified at the verification stage on each such ground in all elections held on 5 May 2011 in *(a)* England, *(b)* Cheshire West and Chester council and *(c)* City of Chester constituency. [55570]

Mr Harper: Returning officers must reject a postal ballot paper if they are not satisfied that a postal voting statement is duly completed. When a statement is selected for verification the returning officer must compare the date of birth and signature on the postal voting statement with those held by the electoral registration officer. The returning officer should reject the postal vote if the records do not match. These measures are important to ensure the integrity of the election process.

Returning officers in England have a statutory duty to send to the Electoral Commission a statement which includes the total number of postal ballot papers issued and returned. This statement must include the number of ballot papers subject to the verification procedure which have been rejected as not completed, and the number rejected because the personal identifiers do not match. The statement must be returned in the period between 10 and 15 working days after the close of the poll. I understand that the Commission plans to publish both local and national statistics on the issue and return of postal ballot packs at the 5 May polls in its report on the administration of the polls, due for publication in October.

Absent Voting: Fraud

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what estimate he has made of the incidence of *(a)* postal and *(b)* proxy vote fraud in the May 2011 elections; [55593]

(2) what steps he is taking to reduce the level of electoral fraud; if he will bring forward proposals to restrict postal and proxy votes; and if he will make a statement. [55597]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made an estimate of the incidence of postal and proxy vote fraud at the polls held on 5 May 2011. The Electoral Commission in conjunction with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) collected data on allegations of electoral malpractice reported to the police at those polls and the Commission and ACPO will publish their findings on the data collected in due course.

The Electoral Commission has led work with police forces, political parties and returning officers to raise awareness of integrity issues and strengthen systems to ensure that fraud is detected and prosecuted and to draw attention to existing good practice. There is evidence of effective working between returning officers and local police at recent elections with the police engaged on election issues and committed to the detection of electoral fraud which is reflected in the findings of the joint report by ACPO and Electoral Commission on the May 2010 elections, "Analysis of cases of alleged electoral malpractice in 2010". This approach was continued for the polls that took place on 5 May 2011.

The Government are committed to reducing electoral fraud and have announced that they will legislate to bring individual electoral registration into force in 2014, ahead of the next general election. This will make the electoral register more accurate and secure, and this should give greater protection to the integrity of the voting process at elections.

The Government will wish to consider carefully the planned reports by the Electoral Commission on the polls on 5 May 2011, and any recommendations made by the Electoral Commission, and will continue to keep procedures under review to ensure that the electoral process is secure.

Elections

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average number of disallowed ballot papers was in each electoral area in the May 2011 elections; and what the five most frequent reasons were for disallowing ballots. [55950]

Mr Harper: After the declaration of an election result, returning officers are required to produce a statement of the total number of ballot papers which were rejected where:

(v) the official mark was missing;

(vi) an individual has voted for more than one candidate;

(vii) the ballot paper is blank or there is a void for uncertainty;

(viii) there is anything written on the ballot paper which could identify the voter.

Information about the number of rejected ballot papers at the recent elections is not yet available. However, the Electoral Commission will undertake an analysis of these statements from each area, which it plans to make available on its website in due course.

The powers given to returning officers in this respect help to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the final result as well as the secrecy of the ballot. Decisions on individual ballot papers are made at the returning officer's discretion, although their decisions in individual cases are subject to legal challenge.

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he received any reports of suspension of voting at polling stations in the May 2011 local elections. [55951]

Mr Harper: The Electoral Commission has received one report of the temporary suspension of voting at a polling place during the local elections which took place on May 5 2011. It was reported that voting was suspended for around 45 minutes at a polling place in Portadown due to the death of a voter. No other reports of suspended voting have been received.

European Court of Human Rights: Prisoner Voting

Chris Kelly: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the potential cost to the public purse of not implementing the European Court of Human Rights ruling on prisoner voting. [55678]

Mr Harper: As the Attorney-General made clear during the Commons debate on this issue on 10 February, it is very difficult to make an accurate estimate of the cost to the public purse, since we cannot know the number of prisoners that may bring a claim, nor can we be certain exactly how much compensation each prisoner might be awarded.

However, if the entire UK sentenced population in the prison system (over 70,000 prisoners) were to bring claims, and on the basis that about £1,000 to £1,500 of compensation and costs might have to be paid in each case, clearly the matter has the potential to be very costly.

TREASURY

Building Societies: Regulation

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011 to the hon. Member for Carlisle, *Official Report*, column 188W, on building and mutual societies, what progress he has made in his consideration of how to modify building society legislation; and if he will make a statement. [55945]

Mr Hoban: The Government have consulted on amending the Building Societies Act 1986 to enable societies to grant floating charges to payment and settlement systems. The Treasury is taking this forward as part of the wider reform of financial regulation. The Government are also seeking to achieve an appropriate outcome on capital requirements for mutuals in the capital requirements directive. The Government continue to work closely with building societies and will consider further legislative changes where there is a robust case for making them.

Civil Society Organisations: Taxation

Richard Fuller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps he plans to take to enable collaboration between civil society organisations to take place tax efficiently; [55607]

(2) whether he has any plans to implement in UK law Article 132(1)(f) of the Principal VAT Directive 2006/112/EC to exempt from VAT the supply of shared services between civil society organisations. [55608]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Budget that the Government would continue to consult on the options for incorporating the exemption directly into UK legislation.

Corporation Tax: Businesses

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in each region, *(c)* in each local authority and *(d)* in each parliamentary constituency he expects to be affected by his decision to reduce the main rate of corporation tax to 26% with effect from April 2011. [54610]

Mr Gauke: Around 45,000 companies that pay tax at the main rate, and around 40,000 that are taxed at the main rate but benefit from marginal relief will have lower tax bills as a result of the reductions in the main rate of corporation tax announced in the last two Budgets.

HMRC does not routinely estimate the number of companies affected or fiscal impact of business tax changes at regional or constituency level.

Departmental Pay

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what additional pay he plans to provide to officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs in the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2013 to reflect (i) seniority, (ii) promotion and (iii) performance. [55410]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury has yet to open discussions with its trades unions and HM Revenue and Customs is currently in discussions with its trade unions. Neither Department is yet in a position to disclose details of its awards, but awards will be in line with the pay freeze announced in the Government's June 2010 emergency Budget. Neither Department has any plans to make payments based on seniority, or to change its existing rules for pay on promotion.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects compensation to be paid to eligible Equitable Life policyholders. [56191]

Mr Hoban: It is intended that £1 billion will be paid out by the scheme over the first three years of the spending review period. First payments will be made by the end of June this year.

Financial Institutions: Directors

Richard Fuller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many senior executives of UK financial institutions in which the Government has a shareholding have been dismissed on grounds of *(a)* capability and *(b)* conduct since July 2007. [55760]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) manages the Government's shareholding in financial institutions at arm's length and on a commercial basis. UKFI's overarching objective is to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder, with due regard to financial stability and acting in a way that promotes competition.

Details on employee issues are a matter for the individual banks.

Financial Services Authority

Richard Fuller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much has been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* to each individual in redundancy or other severance compensation to senior executives and directors of the Financial Services Authority since July 2007; [55481]

(2) what the monetary value is of fines imposed by the Financial Services Authority on senior executives and directors of UK-based financial institutions for misconduct associated with the financial crisis since July 2007; [55482]

(3) whether any senior executives of the Financial Services Authority have been dismissed on grounds of *(a)* capability and *(b)* conduct since July 2007. [55495]

Mr Hoban: This is a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day-to-day operations are independent of Government. I have asked the FSA to write to the hon. Member on the issue he raises. A copy of the response will be placed in the Library of the House.

Independent Commission on Banking

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he plans to give to the monetary value of shares held by UK Financial Investments Ltd in his determination on the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Banking report he plans to adopt. [55799]

Mr Hoban: The Independent Commission on Banking's final report will be delivered to the Government by the end of September 2011. The Government will then decide on the right course of action. The Government do not seek to pre-judge the Commission's final recommendations that are due in September. This includes both the Commission's recommendations and the Government's response.

Public Sector: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings his Department has had with outside organisations in order to meet its objective that proposed reforms to public sector pensions are sustainable and progressive. [55724]

Danny Alexander: The Chancellor announced in the Budget that the Government accept Lord Hutton's recommendations as a basis for consultation with public sector workers, trades unions and others.

In response to a request from the TUC, the Government have set up a series of formal discussions with unions for work forces represented by member organisations of the TUC. For those work forces not represented in that forum, the relevant Secretary of State will engage with their work force as appropriate.

This issue is also being discussed in the course of other regular meetings between Ministers and external bodies, and in correspondence. The Government will listen to the views of all interested parties. In addition the Government are conducting a formal consultation on Fair Deal, which ends on 15 June.

Taxation: Bingo

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from the bingo industry on the relationship between bingo gross profits tax and overall tax revenues from the bingo sector. [55978]

Justine Greening: The Government have received a report commissioned by the Bingo Association on the impact of taxation on the bingo industry. The report discusses the relationship between the rate of bingo duty and tax revenues.

Taxation: Company Cars

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the geographical distribution at *(a)* regional, *(b)* county and *(c)* local authority level of revenue generated from (i) fuel duty, (ii) vehicle excise duty, (iii) value added tax on fuel and (iv) tax charges on company cars and car fuel benefit. [55997]

Justine Greening: The Treasury does not have regionalised information on tax receipts from transport taxes. VAT registered traders are not required to record in their VAT return the type of goods or services on which VAT has been collected.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 18 May 2011

WALES

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many invoices her Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance; [55857]

(2) what mechanism her Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55880]

Mr David Jones: Being a small Department, the Wales Office does not procure contractors directly and therefore received no invoices between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011. The Wales Office uses contracts granted by the Ministry of Justice and larger Government Departments.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56091]

Mr David Jones: In line with the Secretary of State's decision in May 2010 all Wales Office Ministers, Officials and Special Advisers travel standard class rather than first class by rail.

The Wales Office has spent £3,284.70 on train travel for our special adviser since May 2010, which is a significant saving on the previous year when the Department had two special advisers.

We have made no expenditure on Government car, private hire car, bus or any air travel for the special adviser.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to her Department. [56052]

Mr David Jones: Such devices are obtained by my Department through the central procurement arrangements provided by the Ministry of Justice. Under this arrangement, the suppliers are Vodafone and Orange.

Devolution

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) whether her Department will lead on the proposal for a process for Wales similar to the Calman Commission on devolution funding; [56146]

(2) what recent discussions she had had on the proposal for a process for Wales similar to the Calman Commission on devolution funding. [56147]

Mrs Gillan: I am considering with Cabinet colleagues how best to take forward the Government's commitment to establish a process for Wales similar to the Calman Commission. I look forward to discussing the issue with the First Minister following his recent reappointment.

Greater Manchester

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether her Department has made any payment to *(a)* the Manchester college, *(b)* Manchester college for arts and technology and *(c)* City college, Manchester since 1997. [55750]

Mr David Jones: No.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer of his Department since his appointment. [52018]

Chris Grayling: No ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer at the Department for Work and Pensions since my appointment.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55856]

Chris Grayling: The following information details the volumes of payments to suppliers made to the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011 by the Department:

To note, DWP payment terms are calculated from the receipt of a valid invoice rather than the date of invoice.

Total number of invoices received was 772,209, of which 13,964 payments were made outside the 30 day payment target; 17,906 were made outside the 10 day payment target; and 104,572 were made outside the five day payment target. The Government's Fair Payment guidance relates to the construction sector. The Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) estate is managed under contract by Telereal Trillium so the Department has no direct construction requirements.

The "Prompt Payment Code", published by the Institute of Credit Management (ICM) on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) gives a code of practice for prompt payment. DWP has been a signatory of the code since June 2009 and adheres to this through the Prompt Payment Targets.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55879]

Chris Grayling: The Government's Fair Payment guidance relates to the Construction sector. The Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) estate is managed under contract by Telereal Trillium so the Department has no direct construction requirements.

Where DWP suppliers use sub-contractors to deliver a contract, our terms and conditions insist that a provision is included in the sub-contract requiring payment to be made of all sums due by the contractor to the sub-contractor within a specified period not exceeding 30 days from receipt of a valid invoice.

The DWP website confirms that where suppliers use sub-contractors, invoices should be paid within 30 days and sub-contractors are able to report non compliance and a suitable e-mail contact address is provided to enable them to do so.

The "Prompt Payment Code", published by the Institute of Credit Management (ICM) on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) gives a code of practice for prompt payment. DWP has been a signatory of the code since June 2009 and adheres to this through the Prompt Payment Targets.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against his Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54636]

Chris Grayling: The amount of damages paid by the Department for Work and Pensions is not held centrally and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department uses both its own litigation department and external suppliers of legal services in the conduct of its litigation and the costs of these services in relation to civil claims in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled are also not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The amount of claimant costs paid in respect of each of the last three years is as follows:

Financial year	*Claimant costs (£)*
2010-11	1,038,396.87
2009-10	818,704.46
2008-09	629,665.31

These figures include some costs that were payable on behalf of the child maintenance and Enforcement Commission which is a non-departmental public body for which the Department provides some litigation services.

These figures do not include some costs in relation to motor accident claims in 2008-09 which were handled under outsourced arrangements.

In answering this question, the Department has assumed that the term "civil claims" refers to claims issued in England and Wales, in the courts of civil jurisdiction. The figures provided do not therefore include employment-related claims pursued through the Employment Tribunals.

The increase in spend in 2010-11 can be attributed to the final resolution of costs payable in a case that had been heard in the Court of Appeal in 2008.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56053]

Chris Grayling: The department sources its mobile telephone and mobile data services through a contract with BT plc. BT in turn subcontract these services to Vodafone plc.

Employment Schemes: Barking and Dagenham

Margaret Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many voluntary organisations will be involved in the delivery of the Work programme in Barking and Dagenham; and what proportion of the supply chain this figure represents. [55277]

Chris Grayling: Nationally there are over 300 first tier third sector organisations. In addition, there are a significant number of organisations providing ad-hoc support as customer requirements dictate.

The competition is still underway at the moment. When contracts have been signed, further details of the contracts will appear on Government websites (Contract Finder) as part of the ongoing commitment to the Transparency agenda.

Incapacity Benefit: Glasgow

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of incapacity benefit in Glasgow South West constituency are receiving incapacity benefit because of *(a)* alcohol dependency, *(b)* drug dependency and *(c)* obesity-related illnesses; and if he will make a statement. [53919]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is given as follows.

Condition in Glasgow South West parliamentary constituency—August 2010

	IB/SDA	*ESA*
Alcoholism	240	70
Drug Abuse	160	40
Obesity	10	—

"—" denotes nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. To qualify for incapacity benefit (IB), claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called a personal capability assessment. Under the employment support allowance (ESA) regime, new claimants have to undergo the work capability assessment.

From April 2011 incapacity benefit recipients have begun to also undertake this assessment.

The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming IB or ESA on the basis of mental and behavioural disorders would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the personal/work capability assessment.

3. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance from October 2008.

4. Data include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, ie 'credits only cases'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS.

JUSTICE

Aiding and Abetting

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1259-60W, on joint enterprise, what steps he is taking to ensure the prosecution of all those in a gang or group involved in the commission of offences; and if he will conduct a review of the common law practice of joint enterprise. [56014]

Mr Blunt: The law on joint enterprise already provides that members of a group who embark on an agreed plan to commit an offence may all be found guilty. The question of whether to prosecute an individual gang member involved in the commission of an offence is a matter for the Crown Prosecution Service taking account of all the evidence available. We are not planning a review at this stage.

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fixed penalty notices for disorder were issued for *(a)* shop theft and *(b)* criminal damage in each police force area in each year since their introduction; and how many such notices remain unpaid. [55929]

Mr Blunt: The number of penalty notices for disorder issued and the payment rate for the offences of retail theft and criminal damage by police force area, in England and Wales, from 2004 to 2009 can be viewed in tables 1 and 2.

It is not possible to make an accurate assessment of how many penalty notices remain unpaid as once fines are issued in default of payment, they are indistinguishable from other fines. The overall payment rate for all fines in the financial year to March 2011 was 93%.

Table 1: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued, paid and percentage paid for persons aged 16 and over, for criminal damage by police force area, England and Wales 2005-09[1]

	2004			2005			2006		
Police force area	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*
Avon and Somerset	25	16	64	404	287	71	478	309	65
Bedfordshire	11	6	55	143	88	62	214	129	60
British Transport police	0	0	0	0	0	0	108	70	65
Cambridgeshire	9	7	78	107	72	67	171	108	63
Cheshire	37	13	35	317	175	55	300	161	54
Cleveland	13	9	69	280	141	50	461	192	42
Cumbria	14	11	79	66	47	71	226	152	67
Derbyshire	21	17	81	283	195	69	512	339	66
Devon and Cornwall	74	47	64	659	440	67	932	612	66
Dorset	19	16	84	217	151	70	244	162	66
Durham	1	0	0	32	22	69	111	53	48
Essex	43	26	60	405	265	65	358	223	62
Gloucestershire	2	2	100	205	114	56	476	276	58
Greater Manchester	70	39	56	482	255	53	982	520	53
Hampshire	36	23	64	211	138	65	354	238	67
Hertfordshire	12	9	75	148	104	70	751	427	57
Humberside	16	9	56	182	102	56	719	338	47
Kent	35	22	63	782	471	60	1,196	650	54
Lancashire	91	44	48	822	394	48	1,394	648	46
Leicestershire	19	14	74	180	112	62	240	133	55
Lincolnshire	36	24	67	250	159	64	236	147	62
London, City of	0	0	0	2	2	100	6	5	83
Merseyside	52	23	44	961	416	43	1,187	516	43
Metropolitan	154	82	53	932	465	50	1,217	572	47
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	93	60	65
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	11	9	82	306	198	65
Northamptonshire	23	0	0	84	44	52	313	159	51
Northumbria	1	13	57	132	86	65	467	318	68
Nottinghamshire	28	21	75	121	80	66	139	81	58

Table 1: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued, paid and percentage paid for persons aged 16 and over, for criminal damage by police force area, England and Wales 2005-09[1]

	2004			2005			2006		
Police force area	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	6	2	33	344	156	45
Staffordshire	11	9	82	193	120	62	326	182	56
Suffolk	14	10	71	91	64	70	140	88	63
Surrey	0	0	0	11	8	73	284	190	67
Sussex	0	0	0	289	176	61	521	308	59
Thames Valley	36	22	61	310	203	65	458	276	60
Warwickshire	19	16	84	158	102	65	172	119	69
West Mercia	12	9	75	236	150	64	509	311	61
West Midlands	32	15	47	541	271	50	620	282	45
West Yorkshire	146	62	42	1,138	598	53	1,169	622	53
Wiltshire	15	8	53	41	33	80	35	15	43
England	1,127	644	57	11,432	6,561	57	18,769	10,345	55
Dyfed Powys	25	12	48	147	97	66	229	155	68
Gwent	14	8	57	153	89	58	303	155	51
North Wales	21	15	71	320	183	57	560	289	52
South Wales	3	2	67	116	66	57	759	407	54
Wales	63	37	59	736	435	59	1,851	1,006	54
England and Wales	1,190	681	57	12,168	6,996	57	20,620	11,351	55

	2007			2008			2009		
Police force area	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*
Avon and Somerset	346	232	67	312	207	66	245	166	68
Bedfordshire	142	83	58	84	40	48	53	32	60
British Transport police	152	105	69	124	76	61	105	70	67
Cambridgeshire	277	170	61	195	126	65	111	72	65
Cheshire	171	102	60	132	75	57	115	66	57
Cleveland	374	168	45	231	101	44	183	79	43
Cumbria	189	123	65	63	44	70	52	31	60
Derbyshire	417	245	59	262	158	60	102	57	56
Devon and Cornwall	621	422	68	262	199	76	208	153	74
Dorset	147	100	68	97	68	70	75	56	75
Durham	137	69	50	108	57	53	285	139	49
Essex	323	199	62	205	129	63	103	56	54
Gloucestershire	261	141	54	102	70	69	53	37	70
Greater Manchester	1,116	650	58	913	528	58	675	384	57
Hampshire	528	328	62	289	188	65	317	215	68
Hertfordshire	560	319	57	325	221	68	319	209	66
Humberside	982	422	43	500	235	47	351	173	49
Kent	1,230	675	55	1,069	567	53	861	476	55
Lancashire	1,340	546	41	978	441	45	762	364	48
Leicestershire	257	148	58	165	93	56	68	37	54
Lincolnshire	157	98	62	94	69	73	61	48	79
London, City of	15	13	87	2	2	100	2	1	50
Merseyside	616	254	41	402	182	45	304	138	45
Metropolitan	1,293	631	49	996	501	50	728	385	53
Norfolk	127	79	62	171	114	67	94	60	64
North Yorkshire	457	306	67	254	172	68	109	79	72
Northamptonshire	307	158	51	188	95	51	126	76	60
Northumbria	543	372	69	525	337	64	431	245	57
Nottinghamshire	195	124	64	141	92	65	123	84	68
South Yorkshire	736	345	47	611	277	45	419	224	53
Staffordshire	286	160	56	184	105	57	124	74	60
Suffolk	175	117	67	169	110	65	99	71	72

	2007			2008			2009		
Police force area	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*
Surrey	341	251	74	139	97	70	118	77	65
Sussex	524	331	63	271	169	62	184	125	68
Thames Valley	645	385	60	488	314	64	346	228	66
Warwickshire	128	83	65	96	65	68	101	65	64
West Mercia	371	245	66	244	139	57	154	94	61
West Midlands	582	315	54	320	168	53	237	120	51
West Yorkshire	862	492	57	389	228	59	299	178	60
Wiltshire	43	23	53	113	66	58	75	45	60
England	17,973	10,029	56	12,213	6,925	57	9,177	5,289	58
Dyfed Powys	187	134	72	150	111	74	148	106	72
Gwent	258	123	48	332	155	47	233	119	51
North Wales	733	405	55	448	251	56	332	199	60
South Wales	795	381	48	284	182	64	255	153	60
Wales	1,973	1,043	53	1,214	699	58	968	577	60
England and Wales	19,946	11,072	56	13,427	7,624	57	10,145	5,866	58

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued, paid and percentage paid for persons aged 16 and over, for retail theft by police force area, England and Wales 2005-09[1]

	2004			2005			2006		
Police force area	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*
Avon and Somerset	43	14	33	836	342	41	1,335	617	46
Bedfordshire	2	1	50	247	90	36	449	159	35
British Transport police	0	0	0	0	0	0	221	66	30
Cambridgeshire	6	5	83	148	85	57	411	205	50
Cheshire	58	22	38	523	158	30	532	209	39
Cleveland	24	6	25	479	178	37	689	201	29
Cumbria	29	18	62	123	72	59	244	127	52
Derbyshire	17	9	53	175	98	56	545	274	50
Devon and Cornwall	137	57	42	1,361	591	43	1,768	744	42
Dorset	18	11	61	238	157	66	448	240	54
Durham	1	1	100	33	17	52	67	29	43
Essex	106	62	58	700	375	54	896	461	51
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	255	79	31	770	285	37
Greater Manchester	72	43	60	811	445	55	1,785	935	52
Hampshire	58	29	50	429	225	52	656	300	46
Hertfordshire	14	12	86	357	221	62	1,491	696	47
Humberside	14	6	43	329	120	36	1,221	360	29
Kent	46	22	48	1,630	681	42	2,520	993	39
Lancashire	188	42	22	1,546	487	32	2,259	667	30
Leicestershire	37	23	62	357	177	50	491	201	41
Lincolnshire	44	17	39	310	136	44	283	124	44
London, City of	0	0	0	6	2	33	21	9	43
Merseyside	163	61	37	2,241	655	29	2,920	778	27
Metropolitan	373	138	37	2,914	1,100	38	4,227	1,773	42
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	286	139	49
North Yorkshire	2	0	0	26	13	50	369	179	49
Northamptonshire	35	2	100	101	32	32	705	283	40
Northumbria	0	15	43	155	93	60	518	330	64
Nottinghamshire	41	19	46	170	94	55	189	102	54
South Yorkshire	2	2	100	0	0	0	553	295	53
Staffordshire	14	11	79	165	74	45	371	169	46

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued, paid and percentage paid for persons aged 16 and over, for retail theft by police force area. England and Wales 2005-09[1]

	2004			2005			2006		
Police force area	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*
Suffolk	11	5	45	87	46	53	232	139	60
Surrey	0	0	0	19	9	47	472	251	53
Sussex	4	2	50	566	267	47	1,057	524	50
Thames Valley	34	19	56	342	173	51	913	482	53
Warwickshire	33	15	45	151	64	42	223	126	57
West Mercia	25	17	68	413	243	59	950	512	54
West Midlands	66	25	38	1,082	417	39	1,281	511	40
West Yorkshire	200	78	39	963	445	46	884	459	52
Wiltshire	12	6	50	25	14	56	21	9	43
England	1,929	815	42	20,313	8,475	42	35,273	14,963	42
Dyfed Powys	30	10	33	132	43	33	129	70	54
Gwent	48	16	33	631	181	29	639	199	31
North Wales	62	27	44	659	246	37	1,130	386	34
South Wales	3	2	67	262	112	43	1,601	551	34
Wales	143	55	38	1,684	582	35	3,499	1,206	34
England and Wales	2,072	870	42	21,997	9,057	41	38,772	16,169	42

	2007			2008			2009		
Police force area	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*
Avon and Somerset	1,089	532	49	1,315	652	50	1,260	689	55
Bedfordshire	389	135	35	505	178	35	624	254	41
British Transport police	227	87	38	225	83	37	187	68	36
Cambridgeshire	813	311	38	759	368	48	855	431	50
Cheshire	598	291	49	620	331	53	732	391	53
Cleveland	767	195	25	675	188	28	724	251	35
Cumbria	308	130	42	227	140	62	271	177	65
Derbyshire	632	291	46	672	311	46	684	346	51
Devon and Cornwall	1,402	634	45	939	553	59	860	533	62
Dorset	503	262	52	434	204	47	472	235	50
Durham	149	65	44	224	81	36	621	217	35
Essex	1,040	517	50	1,453	758	52	1,285	718	56
Gloucestershire	576	183	32	256	110	43	241	123	51
Greater Manchester	2,759	1,515	55	2,961	1,681	57	3,308	1,970	60
Hampshire	1,447	729	50	1,331	735	55	1,621	962	59
Hertfordshire	1,464	730	50	1,423	919	65	1,974	1,176	60
Humberside	1,827	457	25	1,608	431	27	1,333	461	35
Kent	2,857	1,027	36	3,129	1,047	33	2,934	1,207	41
Lancashire	2,642	882	33	2,325	809	35	2,078	928	45
Leicestershire	587	238	41	564	272	48	519	263	51
Lincolnshire	217	104	48	169	83	49	280	166	59
London, City of	18	7	39	14	5	36	11	5	45
Merseyside	2,422	773	32	2,457	852	35	2,371	927	39
Metropolitan	5,040	1,870	37	6,260	2,669	43	6,903	3,398	49
Norfolk	495	258	52	724	367	51	727	433	60
North Yorkshire	589	274	47	461	226	49	376	230	61
Northamptonshire	749	290	39	667	261	39	630	312	50
Northumbria	812	497	61	959	504	53	1,074	475	44
Nottinghamshire	400	211	53	498	265	53	514	318	62
South Yorkshire	1,318	650	49	1,449	715	49	1,924	1,029	53
Staffordshire	446	198	44	455	206	45	618	339	55
Suffolk	402	233	58	470	265	56	565	320	57
Surrey	669	352	53	599	327	55	629	372	59
Sussex	1,000	500	50	915	489	53	1,071	650	61

	2007			2008			2009		
Police force area	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*	*PNDs issued*	*Paid*	*Percentage*
Thames Valley	1,459	779	53	1,861	1,027	55	1,951	1,176	60
Warwickshire	221	133	60	280	151	54	277	155	56
West Mercia	855	486	57	919	502	55	886	479	54
West Midlands	1,150	484	42	918	417	45	564	269	48
West Yorkshire	611	320	52	431	240	56	542	332	61
Wiltshire	71	36	51	600	272	45	504	266	53
England	41,020	17,666	43	42,751	19,694	46	45,000	23,051	51
Dyfed Powys	124	60	48	143	68	48	169	110	65
Gwent	717	269	38	737	278	38	783	287	37
North Wales	1,193	420	35	899	343	38	901	384	43
South Wales	2,092	696	33	1,086	520	48	1,308	697	53
Wales	4,126	1,445	35	2,865	1,209	42	3,161	1,478	47
England and Wales	45,146	19,111	42	45,616	20,903	46	48,161	24,529	51

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress has been made on the review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. [56231]

Mr Blunt: The Government intend to make an announcement before the summer recess.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55744]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not have any contracts where personal data of UK citizens is stored overseas.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much each executive agency of his Department has spent on travel by *(a)* private hire vehicles, *(b)* trains, *(c)* buses, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010; [56071]

(2) how much has been spent on travel in respect of *(a)* each of his Department's executive agencies and *(b)* the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. [56181]

Mr Djanogly: The Department is unable to provide this information fully in the categories requested directly from its accounting systems. The journey types by trains, buses, cars or other are aggregated under single travel account codes and to disaggregate those would incur disproportionate costs. The available information from MoJ chart of accounts, from May 2010 to April 2011, is provided in the following table:

Travel by type:	*OPG*	*NOMS*	*HMCS*	*TS*
Private hire of vehicles	—	376,778	408,593	27,343
Trains	146,000	[1]—	82,806	21,057
Buses	—	—	—	—
Overseas travel[2]	2,000	221,643	9,190	0
Private aircraft	0	0	0	0
Travel other[3]	—	13,276,866	26,266,305	4,702,338
Total travel spend	148,000	13,875,286	26,766,894	4,750,737
Of which:				
Business unit	146,000	13,657,568	26,747,506	4,744,191
Chief executive officer[4]	2,000	217,718	19,388	6,546

[1] Included under travel other

[2] Overseas travel represents travel by commercial aircraft in most cases.

[3] Travel other includes all other travel spend that can not be disaggregated further on the accounting system and includes all prison officer, judiciary, magistrate and juror travel costs which would include rail, buses, private vehicle hire, taxis and private mileage.

[4] Agencies cannot provide discrete costs for the CEO but only for the CEO's budget area which includes his wider office and direct support staff.

Legal Aid: Gurkhas

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much legal aid relating to the processing of immigration cases for former Gurkhas was paid to each law firm in each of the last five years. [56160]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not available. Records held by the Legal Services Commission do not indicate whether or not a particular case related to a former Gurkha.

Legal Aid: Reform

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress his Department has made on his proposed reforms to civil legal aid. [56216]

Mr Djanogly: We are making good progress in preparing the Government's response to the consultation. I anticipate being able to publish the response soon after Whitsun recess.

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many vacancies there were at each prison directly operated by HM Prison Service in the *(a)* West Midlands and *(b)* East Midlands for each grade of staff employed by HM Prison Service on 31 March 2011; [56004]

(2) what the *(a)* operational staffing requirement and *(b)* number of staff in post was at each prison directly operated by HM Prison Service in the (i) West Midlands and (ii) East Midlands for each grade of staff employed by HM Prison Service on 31 March 2011. [56005]

Mr Blunt: Information on the operational staffing requirement, staff in post and funded vacancies for each grade in each establishment within the East Midlands and West Midlands regions on 31 March 2011 is contained in a table which has been placed in the Library.

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Tooting (Sadiq Khan) of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 459-61W, on the Prison Service: manpower, how many individuals have been appointed on the new prison officer contract since 31 December 2010; and how many such individuals remained in post on the latest date for which figures are available; [56040]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Tooting (Sadiq Khan) of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 459-61W, on the Prison Service: manpower, how many of the individuals appointed on the new prison officer contract between 30 September 2009 and 31 December 2010 remained in post as at 31 March 2011. [56041]

Mr Blunt: Between 31 December 2010 and 31 March 2011 143 staff took up post as prison officer 2s. Of these 136 were still in post on 31 March 2011.

Of the 851 staff who took up post as prison officer 2s between 30 September 2009 and 31 December 2010, 771 remain as officers as at 31 March 2011.

Reoffenders

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people who were released from prison having served a sentence for burglary were subsequently convicted of a similar offence *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region in each of the last five years; [56013]

(2) how many people who were released from prison were subsequently convicted for offences related to violent crime *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region in each of the last five years; [56015]

(3) how many people who were released from prison were subsequently convicted of a sexual offence *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region in each of the last five years. [56016]

Mr Blunt: The following figures relate to offenders released from prison in England and Wales. Regional break-downs of these figures are not available.

Table 1 as follows provides information on the number of adult offenders released from prison in the first quarter of each year after serving a sentence for burglary who went on to commit another burglary offence in the following twelve months.

Table 1: Number of adult offenders who subsequently committed a burglary offence after release from a prison sentence for burglary

2005	344
2006	322
2007	308
2008	394
2009	490

Table 2 as follows provides information on the number of adult offenders released from prison in the first quarter of each year who went on to commit either a violent or sexual offence in the following twelve months.

Table 2: Number of adult offenders who subsequently committed a sexual or violent offence after release from prison

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Sexual	97	104	121	143	138
Violent	2,051	1,890	1,833	2,517	2,390

For more detail on how re-offending is measured please see the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Reoffenders: Crimes of Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted on more than one occasion for offences related to violent crime in each region in each of the last five years. [56007]

Mr Blunt: The following tables show the numbers and proportions of offenders sentenced between 2005 and 2009 for an offence of violence against the person, in each region of England and Wales, who at the time of their sentence had at least one previous conviction for an offence of violence against the person.

Table 1: Number of offenders[1] sentenced for an offence of violence against the person, by region, 2005-09, who had a previous conviction for an offence of violence against the person

					Number
Region	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
North East	1,092	1,197	1,410	1,433	1,441
North West	3,201	3,492	3,553	3,602	3,389

Table 1: Number of offenders[1] sentenced for an offence of violence against the person, by region, 2005-09, who had a previous conviction for an offence of violence against the person

Region	2005	2006	2007	2008	Number 2009
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,791	1,871	2,087	1,940	2,057
East Midlands	1,167	1,225	1,228	1,274	1,190
West Midlands	1,825	2,050	1,991	1,972	1,928
Eastern	1,217	1,227	1,242	1,292	1,312
London	2,195	2,263	2,461	2,604	2,623
South East	1,674	1,812	1,885	1,981	1,925
South West	1,067	1,079	1,067	1,146	1,193
Wales	1,117	1,163	1,181	1,231	1,079
England and Wales	16,346	17,379	18,105	18,475	18,137

Table 2: Percentage of all offenders[1] sentenced for an offence of violence against the person, by region, 2005-09, who had a previous conviction for an offence of violence against the person

Region	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage 2009
North East	37	37	41	42	43
Northwest	38	38	39	41	41
Yorkshire and Humberside	36	37	39	37	37
East Midlands	31	36	34	37	34
West Midlands	36	36	37	37	36
Eastern	32	33	34	35	34
London	33	33	35	33	35
South East	34	34	35	35	35
South West	33	33	34	34	36
Wales	36	37	37	40	36
England and Wales	35	36	37	37	37

[1] The figures are based on counts of sentencing occasions where the primary offence related to violence against the person and where the offender had at least one previous conviction where the primary offence involved violence against the person. An offender may be counted more than once if he or she has been sentenced more than once during the period.

These figures have been derived from the data used for table 6.1 of 'Sentencing Statistics, England and Wales, 2009' which was published by the Ministry of Justice on 21 October 2010. Criminal history statistics for 2010 will be published on 26 May 2011.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

The Ministry of Justice holds data relating to England and Wales. Information for Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Office respectively.

Young Offenders: Children in Care

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of young people aged *(a)* 12 to 15 and *(b)* 16 and over in each local authority area are in custody; and what proportion of such children were formerly looked after children in care. [55645]

Mr Blunt: The YJB does not hold data down to local authority level; however we do hold data down to Youth Offending Team level. The majority of Youth Offending Teams are coterminous with local authorities in England and Wales; however there are some exceptions where a single YOT covers two or more local authorities (see Annex A for a list of Youth Offending Teams which cover more than one local authority area). During 2009-10, there were 157 YOTs; 139 in England and 18 in Wales. The following table shows the average proportion per 1,000 young people aged *(a)* 12 to 15 and *(b)* 16 and 17 year olds in each youth offending team in England and Wales that were in custody (remanded and sentenced) for the period of 2009-10. The population data are from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and are based on mid-year estimate from 2008, which are the latest available population data with the age breakdown.

Accurate data are not available on the number of looked after children.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Period 2009-10

YOT	Age 12-15 per 1,000 population	Age 16-17 per 1,000 population
Barking and Dagenham	0.48	3.02
Barnet	0.11	1.09
Barnsley	0.02	1.01
Bath and North East Somerset	0.26	1.17
Bedfordshire	0.06	0.88
Bexley	0.14	0.47
Birmingham	0.44	2.61
Blackburn with Darwen	0.16	2.28
Blackpool	0.38	3.47
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	0.19	0.65
Bolton	0.16	1.42
Bournemouth and Poole	0.10	0.70
Bracknell Forest	0.18	0.69
Bradford	0.26	1.94
Brent	0.40	2.50
Bridgend	0.31	1.90
Brighton and Hove	0.11	1.81
Bristol	0.46	2.82
Bromley	0.20	0.77
Buckinghamshire	0.03	0.51
Bury	0.22	1.68
Calderdale	0.34	1.95
Cambridgeshire	0.06	0.75
Camden	0.08	1.99
Cardiff	0.28	3.15
Carmarthenshire	0.06	1.47
Ceredigion	0.00	0.27
Cheshire	0.06	1.02
Conwy and Denbighshire	0.13	0.93

	Period 2009-10	
YOT	*Age 12-15 per 1,000 population*	*Age 16-17 per 1,000 population*
Cornwall	0.04	0.61
Coventry	0.23	2.13
Croydon	0.47	2.73
Cumbria	0.08	1.11
Darlington	0.17	1.25
Derby	0.73	3.75
Derbyshire	0.07	0.67
Devon	0.07	0.40
Doncaster	0.24	1.37
Dorset	0.02	0.20
Dudley	0.02	0.87
Durham	0.04	0.93
Ealing	0.26	2.41
East Riding of Yorkshire	0.03	0.55
East Sussex	0.03	0.92
Enfield	0.15	1.67
Essex	0.05	0.66
Flintshire	0.19	1.07
Gateshead	0.24	1.41
Gloucestershire	0.05	0.53
Greenwich	0.14	2.49
Gwynedd Mon	0.14	0.62
Hackney	0.89	5.80
Halton and Warrington	0.20	1.31
Hammersmith and Fulham	0.72	3.76
Haringey	0.32	3.47
Harrow	0.22	0.63
Hartlepool	0.07	1.69
Havering	0.10	0.75
Hertfordshire	0.05	0.54
Hillingdon	0.13	1.73
Hounslow	0.09	0.96
Islington	0.31	5.32
Kensington and Chelsea	0.24	3.94
Kent	0.11	0.88
Kingston-upon-Hull	0.53	2.39
Kingston-upon-Thames	0.26	0.77
Kirklees	0.31	1.79
Knowsley	0.47	1.92
Lambeth	0.70	7.53
Lancashire	0.22	1.26
Leeds	0.48	2.26
Leicester City	0.31	2.80
Leicestershire	0.04	0.37
Lewisham	0.50	3.72
Lincolnshire	0.06	0.83
Liverpool	0.42	3.45
Luton	0.03	1.01
Manchester	0.53	5.86
Medway	0.18	0.85
Merthyr Tydfil	0.65	7.71
Merton	0.25	1.26
Milton Keynes	0.12	0.90
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	0.04	0.65
Neath Port Talbot	0.02	1.08
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	0.18	1.78
Newham	0.43	4.77
Newport	0.23	1.44
Norfolk	0.13	0.66
North East Lincolnshire	0.33	1.33
North Lincolnshire	0.39	2.75
North Somerset	0.08	1.06
North Tyneside	0.22	1.21
North Yorkshire	0.14	0.71
Northamptonshire	0.08	1.31
Northumberland	0.04	0.52
Nottingham	0.60	5.60
Nottinghamshire	0.13	0.83
Oldham	0.48	1.03
Oxfordshire	0.06	0.72
Pembrokeshire	0.00	0.17
Peterborough	0.62	3.14
Plymouth	0.02	1.23
Powys	0.02	0.73
Reading	0.14	0.66
Redbridge	0.17	2.18
Rhondda Cynon Taff	0.11	1.30
Richmond-upon-Thames	0.12	0.79
Rochdale	0.42	1.59
Rotherham	0.20	1.57
Salford	0.37	2.49
Sandwell	0.28	1.88
Sefton	0.06	0.72
Sheffield	0.28	2.84
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	0.05	0.73
Slough	0.17	1.50
Solihull	0.07	0.89
Somerset	0.07	0.31
South Gloucestershire	0.00	0.24
South Tees	0.29	1.55
South Tyneside	0.10	0.77
Southend-on-Sea	0.33	2.12
Southwark	0.70	6.54
St. Helens	0.04	2.16
Staffordshire	0.05	0.80
Stockport	0.11	0.77
Stockton-on-Tees	0.16	1.43
Stoke-on-Trent	0.43	2.63
Suffolk	0.11	0.67
Sunderland	0.08	0.96
Surrey	0.04	0.31
Sutton	0.00	0.61
Swansea	0.16	0.91
Swindon	0.11	1.19
Tameside	0.10	1.22
Thurrock	0.23	0.72
Torbay	0.00	0.98
Tower Hamlets and City of London	0.16	3.83
Trafford	0.16	2.22
Vale of Glamorgan	0.39	0.88

	Period 2009-10	
YOT	Age 12-15 per 1,000 population	Age 16-17 per 1,000 population
Wakefield	0.13	0.84
Walsall	0.15	1.31
Waltham Forest	0.46	2.42
Wandsworth	0.78	5.30
Warwickshire	0.12	0.43
Wessex	0.13	1.22
West Berkshire	0.12	0.57
West Sussex	0.09	0.60
Westminster	0.46	1.72
Wigan	0.14	0.92
Wiltshire	0.03	0.32
Windsor and Maidenhead	0.15	0.49
Wirral	0.14	1.25
Wokingham	0.00	0.14
Wolverhampton	0.26	2.21
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	0.08	0.75
Wrexham	0.28	2.31
York	0.02	2.15

Annex A—Note on YOTs

Bournemouth and Poole (made up of Bournemouth LA and Poole LA)

Cornwall (made up of Cornwall LA and Isles of Scilly LA)

Halton and Warrington (made up of Halton LA and Warrington LA)

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin (made up of Shropshire LA and Telford and Wrekin LA)

South Tees (made up of Redcar LA, Cleveland LA, and Middlesbrough LA)

Tower Hamlets and City of London (made up of Tower Hamlets LA and City of London LA)

Wessex (made up of Isle of Wight LA, Hampshire LA, Southampton LA and Portsmouth LA)

Worcestershire and Herefordshire (made up of Worcestershire LA and Herefordshire LA)

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the European Commission's proposed 2010 Biodiversity Strategy. [56206]

Richard Benyon: The UK welcomes the recent publication of the Commission's EU Biodiversity Strategy as an important contribution towards implementing the international commitments on biodiversity agreed in Nagoya last October. The strategy, which includes six targets and 20 related actions, is also intended to help the EU and its member states meet the EU's 2020 biodiversity target agreed in March 2010.

The Hungarian presidency of the EU is aiming to adopt Council conclusions on the Strategy at the June Environment Council.

We will shortly publish a new England Biodiversity Strategy, following the publication of the Natural Environment White Paper, which will set out how our international commitments will be met in England.

Coastal Areas: Access

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent progress has been made on the implementation of the coastal access provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009; [55585]

(2) what plans she has to implement the coastal access provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 following the completion of implementation of the planned sections in Dorset, Norfolk, Kent, Somerset, Durham and Cumbria; [55586]

(3) what her policy is on the maintenance of coastal paths. [55591]

Richard Benyon *[holding answers 16 and 17 May 2011]:* The Government plan to introduce the new right of coastal access under part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 on a 30 km stretch of the English coast between Portland and Lulworth Cove in Dorset in time for the Olympic and Paralympic sailing events in July 2012.

Natural England submitted its Weymouth Bay coastal access report to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 22 March 2011. There is now a period until 17 May 2011 for any objections to the proposals in the report and representations to be made.

In due course we will be discussing with Natural England its priorities and timetable for implementation of the coastal access provisions beyond the initial coastal stretches at Weymouth and in Cumbria, Durham, Kent, Norfolk and Somerset.

Local highway authorities are responsible for the maintenance of all rights of way in conjunction with landowners.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against her Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54635]

Richard Benyon: The resources needed to obtain the information in relation to each of the last three years would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

Floods: Insurance

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what models she has identified for insurance for areas of significant flood risk; what assessment she has made of such models; and if she will make a statement. [55952]

Richard Benyon: A working group that includes representatives from the Government, the Environment Agency, the insurance industry and other organisations is looking at a range of potential flood insurance models for the future.

These include the role that specialist brokers can play in helping people at high flood risk to access insurance, the potential role of local authorities, and various pooling arrangements for flood risk. Further information will be provided in the working group's interim report, which is due to be published shortly.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of her Department's compliance with the Statement of Principles on the provision of flood insurance of July 2008. [55994]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 17 May 2011]:* In July 2008 the Statement of Principles required the Government to continue to make progress on a range of flood and coastal erosion issues. In relation to the specific issues identified:

We have incorporated the EU Floods Directive into law;

The Environment Agency have streamlined arrangements for providing flood risk data to insurers;

The Environment Agency published a long-term investment strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management;

Through the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 we have established how flooding from surface water will be better managed in the future;

We have completed a review of outcome measures and have consulted on reforms to the way capital budgets are allocated;

We are committed to preventing unnecessary building in areas of high flood risk and to giving a greater say to local communities through a faster and more democratically accountable planning system within a framework of clear national priorities; and

We continue to explore the role that non-regulatory approaches such as resilience grants, funding mechanisms and information can have in encouraging flood resilience and better building design.

Land: Contamination

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received from bodies representing local authority regulators on her Department's recently proposed revision of the statutory guidance in respect of the contaminated land regime. [55984]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA held a public consultation on proposed changes to the contaminated land statutory guidance from 21 December 2010 to 15 March 2011. Over 50 responses were received from local authorities, including Local Government Regulation (part of Local Government Group), individual authorities, groups of authorities and other organisations whose membership includes local authority officers. The Secretary of State also received a letter in response to the consultation from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. These responses are currently being considered alongside other responses to the consultation, and a summary of responses will be published in due course.

Rivers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on cleaning rivers in the last five years. [55239]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency undertakes pollution prevention activities and has a role to investigate and remediate pollution incidents. It also has powers to prevent or stop pollution and operates under the 'polluter pays' principle recovering its costs where possible.

The Environment Agency has a specific duty to protect and enhance water quality in rivers and other water bodies in England and Wales. It is funded to undertake its duties partly by government grant in aid (GIA) and partly through charges for environmental permits for water discharge activity (EPR charges).

The following table outlines all expenditure associated with activities aiming to ensure the cleanliness and quality of rivers and other water bodies continues to be protected and maintained.

£000

		Sources of funding		
	Total water quality spending	*EPR charges*	*Pollution incidents cost recovery*[1]	*GIA/other*
2010-11[2]	132,272	62,749	1,473	68,050
2009-10	130,768	64,424	1,345	64,999
2008-09	141,550	64,761	1,059	75,730
2007-08	141,053	65,671	689	74,693
2006-07	148,442	65,073	957	82,412
Five year total	694,085	322,678	5,523	365,884

[1] In addition to pollution incident costs recovery, a significant proportion of such incidents are funded from GIA.

[2] As yet unaudited.

In addition to the grant in aid that will be provided to the Environment Agency this year, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced on 13 April 2011 that an additional £92 million would be spent over the course of the spending review period (2011-15) by a range of organisations, to help deliver additional improvements to our rivers, lakes and estuaries.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55859]

David Mundell: Between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011 the Scotland Office received 1,039 invoices. The Scotland Office aims to pay invoices within five days of receipt. During this period, 1,025 invoices were paid within five days. 14 invoices were not paid within five days. All payments were made within the 30 day contract obligation.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55882]

David Mundell: Other than minor purchases, the Scotland Office does not undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises existing service contracts between suppliers and the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice. The Scotland Office follows the principles of the Government's Fair Payment guidance in its dealings with direct suppliers.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56050]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office makes use of a Government framework contract with Vodafone for mobile telephone and data services.

Departmental Taxis

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Office has spent on private vehicle hire for ministerial travel *(a)* in total and *(b)* for each Minister in his Department since 11 May 2010. [56112]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office spent £40,527 on private vehicle hire for ministerial travel between 11 May 2010 and 30 April 2011. The following table shows the split by Minister.

Minister	*Cost (£)*
right hon. D. Alexander MP	750
right hon. M. Moore MP	26,327
right hon. D. Mundell MP	13,450

Devolution

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the merits and demerits of the Calman Commission process; and if he will make a statement. [56145]

David Mundell: The Government introduced the Scotland Bill on 30 November 2010, in line with our programme for government commitment to implement the recommendations of the Calman Commission.

The Commission's Final Report was the culmination of a thorough process that considered a wide range of views through a strong programme of stakeholder engagement.

Greater Manchester

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has made any payments to *(a)* the Manchester College, *(b)* Manchester College for Arts and Technology and *(c)* City College, Manchester since 1997. [55751]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date no payments have been made to *(a)* the Manchester College, *(b)* Manchester College for Arts and Technology and *(c)* City College, Manchester.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff of his Department are entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56448]

David Mundell: No staff work full-time or part-time on trade union activities.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that all available non-animal methods in scientific research are implemented. [53687]

Lynne Featherstone: Under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, the Home Office can only license the use of animals for scientific purposes where there is no non-animal alternative, and then only when both the number of animals to be used and any expected suffering is minimised. This reflects the principles of the 3Rs—the refinement of scientific procedures, the reduction of the number of animals used and their replacement with other methods wherever possible.

To ensure that no relevant replacement, reduction or refinement measure has been overlooked, all applications are considered by the local ethical review processes in place in all user establishments designated under the 1986 Act. They are also assessed in detail by Home Office Inspectors, who are all either medical or veterinary graduates.

The Government also encourages the development and use of alternatives and improvements in laboratory animal welfare through its support for the UK National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) and European and international 3Rs initiatives.

The coalition agreement includes a commitment to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research. We are working on a strategy to deliver this commitment and I expect to make an announcement on this shortly.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to reduce the 12-year period for ending the use of wild caught primates for scientific research in the UK. [53721]

Lynne Featherstone: Article 10 of European Directive 2010/63 requires that animals of all species of non-human primate used in scientific procedures must be purpose bred unless there is justification for the use of wild caught animals. The United Kingdom has operated a similar policy since 1995 and has not authorised the first time use of wild caught primates for more than 10 years.

Article 10 also requires that from the dates set out in Annex II to the Directive all non-human primates should be the offspring of animals bred in captivity or sourced from self sustaining colonies. Under Article 10, the European Commission must carry out a feasibility study by 10 November 2017 to confirm or amend the dates in Annex II. The United Kingdom contribution to the feasibility study will be considered at the appropriate time when consulted by the Commission.

Directive 2010/63/EU must be implemented by member states from 1 January 2013.

Community Safety Local Partnerships

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the adequacy of business representation on community safety partnerships. [55907]

James Brokenshire: We expect community safety partnerships to engage and work with local people, including the business community, when developing their annual strategic assessment and agreeing their local priorities. Membership of partnerships, beyond the statutory responsible authorities, is determined locally and as such it is not possible to make an accurate assessment of the adequacy of business representation.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to her Department. [56065]

Damian Green: The suppliers to the Home Department for the provision of *(a)* mobile telephones are Vodafone, Orange and O2, and for *(b)* mobile data services, Vodafone.

Driving Offences

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drink driving offences were recorded in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997; and how many successful prosecutions for these offences there were in each such year. [53428]

James Brokenshire: There were 93,973 breath tests in England and Wales in 2009 whose outcome was positive or refused, compared with 91,666 in 2008 and 97,590 in 2007. Data by police force area can be found on page 84, table 4.04 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Powers and Procedures 2009-10. The publication is available in the Library of the House and at the weblink provided below:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb0711/

Historical data, going back over the past decade can be found on page 83, table 4.01 of the same publication.

Prosecutions are dealt with by the Ministry of Justice in their "Criminal Statistics" publication, copies of which are available from the Library of the House and the weblink as follows:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/criminal-annual.htm

Entry Clearances: Married People

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for spouse and partner visas have been denied on the basis that they have not met the English language requirements since 29 November 2010; and what proportion of the total refusals for spouse and partner visas since that date this group represents. [55986]

Damian Green: These data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

Period: from 29 November 2010 onwards

Refusals (Not met English language requirements) for spouse and partners—71

Total refusals—for spouse and partners—6,126

Immigrants

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to address gaps in local data on migrant populations. [55985]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what plans the Secretary of State for the Home Office has to address gaps in local data on migrant populations. [55985]

ONS produces estimates of long-term international migrant flows for each local authority. Over the last decade these have attracted extensive interest. The Migration Statistics Improvement Programme (MSIP) work programme was initiated in April 2008, with the purpose of improving population and migration statistics in line with recommendations made in the 2006 Interdepartmental Task Force on Migration Statistics and subsequent Parliamentary reviews. The programme is led by the National Statistician and the Office for National Statistics, working in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government, Home Office, Department for Work and Pensions, Department of Health, Department for Children Schools and Families, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Her Majesty's Treasury, devolved administrations and the Bank of England.

Phase 1 of the MSIP ended in May 2010 and resulted in significant improvements to migration and population statistics at a Local Authority (LA) level. This work included:

the development of an immigration model that uses a range of more timely administrative data and other sources to allocate immigration data to local authorities. This replaced the direct use of Census data for this purpose. This was a significant improvement as it meant that changes in distribution since the 2001 Census were taken into account

the use of data from the Higher Education Statistics Authority, which for the first time includes student term time address, and been used to produce better estimates of student migration

a methodology has been introduced to produce an initial set of short-term migration estimates at LA level. These were published in a research report followed by a period of extensive user consultation which has fed into the further development of these estimates

Phase 2 of the MSIP is now underway and will run until March 2012. Phase 2 is concentrating on making greater and better use of administrative data to produce further improvements to migration and population estimates at LA level. This includes:

undertaking reconciliation work to understand the gaps between administrative sources and population estimates distributing long-term migrants to LA level using proportions from administrative sources instead of the current modelling approach

developing estimates of short-term migration for local authorities which will help to explain some of the gaps between the current population estimates and information contained in a range of administrative sources which include short-term migrants (particularly workers and students)

All publications from the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme can be found at the following link:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/methodology-and-quality/imps/index.html

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to collect data on public opinion on migration following the discontinuation of the Citizenship Survey. [55989]

Damian Green: The Home Office currently has no plans to commission public opinion research on migration.

Immigrants: Detainees

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who were detained for immigration purposes and then *(a)* deported and *(b)* released in the last six months of 2010 had been detained for more than (i) three months, (ii) six months, (iii) one year and (iv) two years. [53113]

Damian Green *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* For the purposes of this response, we have assumed "deported" to mean deported or removed. The following table shows details of those leaving detention under immigration powers in Immigration Removal Centres between 1 July and 31 December 2010, broken down by length of detention. Data showing those leaving detention under immigration powers in Her Majesty's Prisons are not available.

All	*Removed/Deported*	*Released*
Total	8,410	4,660
Detention length:		
Three months to less than six months	515	305
Six months to less than 12 months	225	135
12 months to less than 24 months	55	65
24 months or more	10	20

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Release and Removal totals are given 'per event' not 'per individual'. This means that individuals could be counted more than once.
3. The time period refers to the continuous period of detention immediately prior to release or removal.

Please note these figures are based on internal management information and should be treated as provisional and subject to change. They have not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and may not agree with published figures.

The majority of those detained under immigration powers for periods beyond 12 months are likely to have been former foreign national prisoners (FNPs). Despite the best efforts of the UK Border Agency, deportation of FNPs can be delayed by the use of judicial challenges and their failure to comply with the documentation process, which can lengthen the period of time spent in immigration detention.

We are working with international partners to return people to their home country at the earliest opportunity and will continue to tackle the delaying tactics used by those who attempt to frustrate their removal.

Every effort is made to ensure that a foreign prisoner's deportation coincides, as far as possible, with his or her release from prison. Where sentence length allows, deportation will be considered up to 18 months prior to the earliest point of removal.

Immigration: India

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 683W, on entry clearances: India, which categories of natural person would be limited under the proposed EU-India Free Trade Agreement; whether a minimum salary would be required for those persons admitted for less than 12 months; and what her estimate is of the number of persons likely to be admitted for less than 12 months. [53292]

Damian Green *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The EU-India Free Trade Agreement is still under negotiation. No decision has been taken as to the categories of person that the Mode 4 elements may apply to though it is likely to cover intra-company transferees, contractual service suppliers and independent professionals. The conditions of entry and numbers involved are still under negotiations.

Shoplifting

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the number of penalty notices for disorder issued for shop theft which remain outstanding; and if she will make a statement. [55829]

James Brokenshire: I have had no such discussions.

The Ministry of Justice attend the National Retail Crime Steering Group, the national partnership to tackle retail crime. One aspect of its work is to ensure the effective use of existing sanctions and deterrents to retail crime. Magistrates courts are responsible for collecting fines arising from unpaid penalty notices for disorder in the same way as any other fine. The overall payment rate for all financial penalties in the financial year to March 2011 was 93%.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Inward Investment

11. **David Rutley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the United States Administration on inward investment into Northern Ireland. [55389]

Mr Swire: The lead responsibility for attracting inward investment to Northern Ireland lies with the Executive, but we co-operate closely in support of their efforts.

The Secretary of State has had regular discussions on inward investment with representatives of the United States Administration, including Secretary Clinton when he met her in Washington.

Corporation Tax

13. **Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his policy is on the powers of the Northern Ireland Assembly to set the rate of corporation tax in Northern Ireland. [55391]

Mr Paterson: A Government consultation on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy runs until June 24, and includes a discussion of the potential benefits of devolving to the Assembly the power to vary the corporation tax rate.

More effective competition with the low rate in the Republic of Ireland could prompt a step-change in the levels of private sector investment and employment necessary to transform the Northern Ireland economy.

Universal Credit

14. **Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues and Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive on the implications for Northern Ireland of the Government's proposals for universal credit. [55392]

Mr Swire: I have not been approached by Northern Ireland ministerial colleagues to discuss universal credit but I am happy to engage in such a discussion.

The Department for Work and Pensions keeps in close contact with the Department of Social Development on the subject of welfare reform at ministerial and official levels.

Pat Finucane

15. **Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he plans to announce the outcome of his consideration of whether to establish a public inquiry into the death of Pat Finucane; and if he will make a statement. [55393]

Mr Paterson: I have not taken a decision on this issue. I hope to do so shortly.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55861]

Mr Paterson: My Department received 9,115 invoices in the period 1 May 2010 to 1 April 2011. The Northern Ireland Office aims to pay all invoices within five working days.

During this period 43% of invoices were paid within five working days, and 98% within 10 working days. All payments were made within the period specified by the supplier.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55884]

Mr Paterson: My Department uses a third party provider to process all financial transactions to suppliers. Where possible payments are made within five working days of receiving an invoice.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56049]

Mr Paterson: For mobile telephones, the Northern Ireland Office uses the services of Vodafone, Orange and O2

Data services are provided by BT, Vodafone and O2.

TRANSPORT

Cycleways

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much his Department has spent on maintaining cycle lanes in the last five years; [55324]

(2) how much his Department has spent on promoting the use of cycle lanes in the last five years. [55325]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not provide funds specifically for maintenance of cycle lanes, which are part of the highway and maintained as such. Local authorities determine their own spending priorities and it is for them to decide how much to allocate to general road maintenance.

However, in 2010-11 the Department provided a grant of £1.5 million to Sustrans for maintenance of the National Cycle Network. Through the project 385 kilometres of traffic-free (i.e. off road) sections of the National Cycle Network were upgraded, maintained or even built.

The Department for Transport does not specifically promote the use of cycle lanes as they are only one of several measures which can improve conditions for cyclists.

Between 2006-07 and 2010-11 the Department for Transport, via Cycling England, provided funding for 17 Cycle Towns and one Cycle City aimed at encouraging more people to cycle more safely, more often. Infrastructure improvements, including cycle lanes, were an element of many programmes. More details of these are available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/cyclingengland/

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56051]

Norman Baker: The information for the Department for Transport and its agencies is as follows:

	Contractor or supplier of mobile telephone services	*Contractor or supplier of mobile data services*
DfT (Central)	Vodafone	T-Mobile
DVLA	Vodafone and Orange	Orange
HA	Vodafone, Orange and O2	Vodafone
DSA	Vodafone	Vodafone
VOSA	Orange	Vodafone
MCA	Vodafone and Orange	Vodafone and Orange
VGA	Vodafone	Vodafone
GCDA	Vodafone	Orange

Driving Offences: Fines

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people normally resident in EU countries other than the UK were liable to pay a speeding fine in England in each of the last five years. [51867]

Mike Penning: In 2006, we estimated that around 3% to 4% of all speeding offences detected on camera were by foreign-registered vehicles. However, we do not have data on the nationality of drivers of vehicles and we have no practical mechanism to count those foreign licence drivers who are committing offences undetected or GB licence holders driving foreign-registered vehicles.

We are aware that the current systems mean that foreign drivers are less likely to face the consequences of dangerous road use. We are looking at ways of improving enforcement where we do not have details of the driver who committed the offence. We are also considering innovative approaches to fine collection by using third parties to improve enforcement.

Great Western Railway: Franchises

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the Great Western franchise beyond 2013. [56141]

Mrs Villiers: The specification for the new franchise, to commence in 2013, will be developed over the next year in consultation with the railway industry and stakeholders.

High Speed Two Railway Line

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* position and *(b)* payband is of each member of staff of (i) his Department and (ii) High Speed Two assigned to work on the High Speed Two mobile exhibitions and roadshows. [52967]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Department for Transport has nine members of staff in the high-speed rail policy team, who spend some of their time working on the exhibitions and roadshows. Of these, one is SCSPB2, two are SCSPB1, three are PB6, and three are PB4. When further resources have been necessary, support from other areas of the Department has been requested.

45 HS2 Ltd employees attend roadshows as part of their duties. The positions are a mixture of administrative and specialist posts (i.e. engineer) and are formed of DfT secondees and directly employed HS2 Ltd staff. The make-up of these staff are identified in the following tables:

DFT secondees to HS2

Band	*Number of employees*
SCSPB2	1
SCSPB1	2
PB7	1
PB6	9
PB5	1
PB4	3
PB3	1

Directly employed HS2 staff

Band	*Number of employees*
Senior Manager	2
Manager	11
Adviser A	4
Adviser B	1
Assistant A	1
Assistant B	3
Assistant C	4
Executive member	1

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether anyone acting on behalf of his Department or of High Speed Two Ltd approached any of the business leaders who wrote an open letter to the editor of the Financial Times in support of High Speed Two to encourage them to do so. [54016]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* No permanent civil servants or employees of HS2 Ltd approached any of the individuals who signed the letter referred to.

I and other Ministers in the Department regularly urge business and civic leaders who support high-speed rail proposals to make their views known publicly, as those who oppose high-speed rail have done.

Special advisers in the Department will have had follow up contact with some of these supporters of high- speed rail to make them aware of the opportunities to make that support known.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans to revise the service assumptions for demand modelling in respect of the High Speed Two proposals. [54803]

Mr Philip Hammond: An indicative service specification has been produced by HS2 Ltd for the purposes of preparing an economic case for HS2. This is indicative only and should not be considered as binding on the eventual service pattern that operates on HS2. The service specification is likely to be further refined as the project progresses.

HM Coastguard

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what definition of national resilience his Department uses in relation to its proposals for the future operating model for HM Coastguard. [54505]

Mike Penning: In relation to the proposals for a future operating model for HM Coastguard, national resilience is the interoperability between all coastguard centres within a national network. This would enable HM Coastguard to maintain the provision of its mandated operational responsibilities during specific threat periods, intense loading or impairment to one or more centres as a result of staff shortages or infrastructure impairment.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motor cars of each make registered on or prior to 1945 are recorded as still in existence by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency database. [55462]

Mike Penning: The following table provides an estimate of the number of cars which were first registered (or are likely to have been first registered) before 1946 and were either licensed or had a statutory off-road notification (SORN) applied on 31 December 2010.

However, it is impossible to know exactly how many pre-1946 cars are still registered for two reasons:

(1) An unknown number of pre-1946 cars that were neither licensed nor had a SORN on the 31 December may still be in existence. Nothing is known about these vehicles.

(2) Before 1971 registration was carried out by local authorities. From 1971, registration was carried out centrally. Any vehicle that had been first registered before this date but was unlicensed at the point of the change will have received a new, post-1971, date of first registration if and when the vehicle was licensed again. The only way to identify these vehicles is through the date of manufacture; this information is not available for all vehicles, especially older ones.

	First registered before 1946		*First registered after 1971 but manufactured before 1946*		
Make	*Licensed*	*With a SORN*	*Licensed*	*With a SORN*	*Total*
AC	13	3	4	—	20
AC (Electric)	33	8	6	1	48
AJS	13	—	3	—	16
Albion	2	—	1	—	3
Alfa Romeo	53	38	5	9	105
Aston Martin	156	34	30	6	226
Austin/Austin Henley/Austin Morris	6,547	1,383	1,172	243	9,345
Bedford	9	4	—	—	13
Bentley	935	314	138	54	1,441
BMW	11	17	1	6	35
Bond	1	—	—	—	1
Bristol (Blmc)	1	2	—	—	3
BSA	100	28	15	7	150
Bugatti	7	52	4	25	88
Buick	105	84	18	24	231
Cadillac	14	47	4	18	83
Carbodies	1	—	—	—	1
Case	—	—	—	1	1
Chevrolet	14	89	6	25	134
Chrysler	44	44	4	12	104
Citroen	83	63	12	19	177
Clark	1	—	—	—	1
Commer	3	1	—	—	4
Daimler	264	59	43	16	382
Datsun	—	1	—	—	1
Dennis	5	—	—	—	5
Dodge	4	38	—	10	52
Douglas	1	1	—	—	2
Enfield	1	—	—	—	1
Fiat	113	43	15	10	181
Ford	911	965	141	257	2,274
Fordson	2	1	1	—	4
Hillman	300	77	45	6	428
Humber	319	62	62	11	454
Jaguar	82	44	9	8	143
James	2	—	—	—	2
Jensen	6	1	1	2	10
Jordan	—	1	—	—	1
Lancia	126	19	9	6	160
Land Rover	1	—	—	—	1
Leyland Cars	4	—	—	—	4
Lincoln	8	7	—	2	17
Marshall	1	—	—	—	1
Maserati	1	3	—	1	5
Matchless	1	—	—	—	1
Mazda	—	2	—	—	2
Mercedes	31	17	2	5	55
Mercury	—	2	—	1	3
MG	1,349	307	191	46	1,893
Morgan	239	104	41	16	400
Morris	3,214	603	624	106	4,547
Norton	1	—	—	—	1
Oldsmobile	14	39	2	11	66
Opel	14	3	2	2	21
Other British	7,068	2,824	1,224	600	11,716
Other Countries	249	33	49	7	338
Other East European	1	1	1	—	3
Other Electric	—	1	3	—	4
Other French	57	22	8	4	91
Other German	10	1	1	—	12
Other Italian	20	9	1	2	32
Other Japanese/Asian	—	2	—	—	2
Other Us/Aust/Can	24	99	4	35	162
Other West European	5	1	1	—	7
Other/Commercial/Thorneycroft	2	1	—	—	3
Peugeot	14	23	5	9	51
Plymouth	1	15	—	3	19
Pontiac	4	16	3	3	26

	First registered before 1946		*First registered after 1971 but manufactured before 1946*		
Make	*Licensed*	*With a SORN*	*Licensed*	*With a SORN*	*Total*
Porsche	—	1	—	—	1
Raleigh	5	2	—	1	8
Renault	71	39	12	12	134
Riley	1,490	200	167	17	1,874
Rolls Royce	1,374	600	184	95	2,253
Rover	565	114	82	17	778
Saab	—	1	—	—	1
Saxon	1	—	—	—	1
Singer	432	95	68	16	611
Steyr	1	—	—	—	1
Sunbeam	295	53	41	1	390
Talbot	164	60	25	7	256
Toyota	1	2	—	—	3
Triumph	229	39	28	4	300
Vauxhall	414	111	64	21	610
Volkswagen	2	22	—	6	30
Volvo	—	3	—	—	3
Westfield	—	1	—	—	1
Wolseley	595	111	83	25	814
Yale	—	1	—	—	1
Make Unknown	11	1	1	1	14
Total	28,265	9,114	4,666	1,852	43,897

Railway Stations: Access

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress his Department is making in ensuring that railway stations are more accessible. [55643]

Norman Baker: We are committed to improving access to rail travel and have continued with the Access for All programme. This will provide accessible, step-free routes to 148 priority stations by 2015 and is in addition to the upgrades being delivered through franchise commitments and major programmes of investment such as Crossrail and Thameslink. Good progress is being made, with work complete at 51 stations and in progress on site at 27.

In addition, we have introduced a new 'Medium Tier' fund for access improvements at intermediate-sized stations, for which we are currently inviting applications and will continue to set aside around £5 million per year over the spending review period for train operators to use for smaller access enhancements.

Railways: North West

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from transport groups in the North West on links between west coast rail services and the channel tunnel; and if he will make a statement. [55797]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not received any responses from transport user groups regarding future links between the west coast main line and the High Speed 1 line.

Railways: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on future rail franchise agreements involving Welsh and cross-border rail lines. [56142]

Mrs Villiers: As part of the intercity west coast franchise consultation, which ended on 21 April, departmental officials have met with officials from the Welsh Assembly Government and received a written response to the consultation, which will be included within the summary of the stakeholder briefing document. This summary of consultation responses will be published in due course. There have been no recent discussions about other future rail franchises.

Shipping

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to bring forward the Marine Navigation Bill proposed by the previous Administration. [55795]

Mike Penning: We continue to look at opportunities for taking forward the measures that were contained in the draft Marine Navigation Bill. An example of this approach includes the progress of implementing the wreck removal convention by means of a private Member's Bill.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56055]

Robert Neill: The suppliers of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to the Department are Vodafone and Orange.

The Department has placed a strict approvals process (approval only by directors) on ordering new handsets and commencing new contracts. Due to the restructuring of the Department, many handsets are being returned either by those leaving or as a result of role changes where the devices are no longer needed. Any phones given to staff will be from the existing DCLG mobile phone estate. New devices will be ordered only where telephones are broken or lost and where there are no replacement handsets held in stock.

Faith Communities: Places of Worship

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to identify the requirements of faith communities and places of worship within the national planning policy framework. [56155]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 17 May 2011]:* All proposals for changes to the wording of planning policy in England on the provision of community and social infrastructure will receive careful consideration as we continue to work to create the national planning policy framework. At this stage I cannot say what exactly will appear in the draft framework, but we are committed to full public consultation in the summer and we will welcome responses from faith communities as part of that public engagement.

Greater Manchester

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments his Department and its agencies have made to *(a)* the Manchester college, *(b)* Manchester College for Arts and Technology and *(c)* City college, Manchester since 1997; and for what purpose in each case. [55749]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government and the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister were created following the machinery of government changes on 5 May 2006 and 29 May 2002 respectively.

There are no records of any payments to the Manchester College for Arts and Technology or the City college, Manchester since May 2002. Details of payments to the Manchester college are given in the following table, for both the central Department and the Government offices. Payments were in relation to human resources training, predominantly in relation to Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development qualifications.

Details of payments prior to May 2002 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

£

Financial year	*Central Department*	*Government offices*
2002-04	0	0
2004-05	1,677	0
2005-06	0	2,643
2006-07	0	2,678
2007-08	29,498	13,259
2008-09	15,977	14,102
2009-10	5,800	16,850
2010-11	0	5,745
Total	52,952	55,277

Multiple Occupation

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance his Department makes available to local authorities seeking to return houses in multiple occupation to single units. [55793]

Grant Shapps: The overwhelming majority of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) are privately owned—particularly those which might be suitable for conversion to family housing. It is for the owner of a privately rented HMO to decide whether to convert their property back into a single unit suitable for a family. If the property is well maintained, well managed, and has any necessary planning consents, then the local authority has no powers to seek a change of use.

Generally, a change of use from a small HMO to a family house does not require an application for planning permission unless there are local concerns about such development and the local authority have made an article 4 direction requiring planning applications for such development. Should a landlord wish to convert a larger HMO to a family house, this will require a planning application if the local authority considers this would be a material change of use.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to review the changes in permitted development rights for small-scale houses in multiple occupation (C4 use class); and if he will make a statement. [56017]

Robert Neill: In October 2010, we introduced a permitted development right to allow changes of use from family houses to small houses in multiple occupation to take place without the need to submit planning applications. We are committed to reviewing the impact of those legislative changes in 2013.

In areas where there is a need to control houses in multiple occupation, local authorities can use an article 4 direction to remove these permitted development rights and require planning applications for such changes of use. This gives councils the flexibility to tackle problems where they occur without imposing red tape on the wider rental market.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier-1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55872]

John Penrose: The Department received 4106 invoices between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011 in respect of goods or services provided by its tier-1 suppliers. Of these invoices, 19 were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56056]

John Penrose: The information is as follows:

(a) Vodafone and Nokia supply mobile telephone services and

(b) Blackberry, Vodafone and O2 supply mobile data services to the Department.

Government Art Collection

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the merits of maintaining spending on the Government art collection at current levels. [53270]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Government art collection's (GAC) budget for 2010-11 was £540,000. This included £194,000 for capital acquisitions. I have now agreed the GAC's budget for the spending review period, which is as follows:

			£000
	Total	*Revenue*	*Capital*
2011-12	347	347	0
2012-13	354	354	0
2013-14	478	374	114
2014-15	492	373	119

In the first two years the GAC will not be making acquisitions, but will be focussing instead on making the collection more accessible to the public through five exhibitions at the Whitechapel Gallery and subsequent tour.

Olympic Games 2012: Smoking

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the London Organising Committee of the Olympic games and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Health on making the London 2012 Olympics tobacco-free; [56010]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure the London 2012 Olympics are tobacco free; whether the Olympic athletes' village will be a designated no smoking area; and whether ticketed venues for the London 2012 Olympics will be designated no smoking areas. [56042]

Hugh Robertson: Officials in the Department and the Department of Health have discussed our aspiration for a tobacco-free games with the London 2012 organising committee (LOCOG) on a number of occasions.

LOCOG has confirmed that it will not be appointing a tobacco sponsor and that tobacco and cigarettes will not be sold at any of the Olympic or Paralympic venues. Smoking will also be prohibited in all ticketed sports competition, venues for the games (for example the Olympic stadium and the velodrome), as well as the athletes' village.

School Sports

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to assess the outcomes of the School Olympics; and what criteria he will use to conduct that assessment. [55652]

Hugh Robertson: The outcomes of the School Games will be assessed in two ways. The School Games website will record the number of schools taking part; the number of sports being played; and the number of young people taking part in intra-and interschool competition. Secondly, Sport England will be carrying out a full impact evaluation of the School Games over four years. An independent research organisation will be commissioned to carry out the evaluation (managed by Sport England). Further details will be announced in the autumn.

Sports: Young People

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to encourage young people to join sports clubs. [55718]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England currently funds 34 national governing bodies of sport to establish and develop links with local schools in order to increase the number of young people participating in community club-based sport. They will be providing £4.1 million per annum in exchequer funding until 2012-13 to continue this work.

In addition, the School Games and the Change 4 Life sports clubs will support young people to make the transition between school and community-based sports clubs.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Elections: Armed Forces

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how many armed forces personnel serving *(a)* abroad and *(b)* in Afghanistan were registered to vote in (i) total and (ii) each parliamentary constituency in (A) the 2010 general election and (B) the 2011 referendum on the voting system; [55972]

(2) how many armed forces personnel serving *(a)* abroad and *(b)* in Afghanistan (i) were registered for postal voting and (ii) voted using a postal ballot in (A) the 2010 general election and (B) the 2011 referendum on the voting system; [55973]

(3) how many armed forces personnel serving *(a)* abroad and *(b)* in Afghanistan (i) were registered for proxy voting and (ii) voted using a proxy in (A) the 2010 general election and (B) the 2011 referendum on the voting system. [55974]

Mr Harper: No central record is kept of the number of armed forces personnel who registered and voted at either the 2010 UK parliamentary election or the referendum on the voting system earlier this month. Armed services personnel may register to vote as ordinary electors, as service electors or, where appropriate, as overseas electors and therefore it is not possible to readily identify all of them.

However, the defence analytical services and advice survey conducted by the Ministry of Defence in 2009 showed that an estimated 69% of service personnel were registered to vote. The report of that survey is available from the Library of the House. The latest survey is currently being analysed, and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House upon completion by the Minister responsible for defence personnel, welfare and veterans.

Under targeted initiatives implemented for service personnel who were in Afghanistan during the May 2010 and 2011 polls, service voters were able to register for a proxy or postal vote and specific processes were put in place to support their participation. I understand that for the 2010 UK parliamentary election, 217 postal votes were successfully returned and distributed out to returning officers. In addition to this, 294 applications to vote by proxy were received and forwarded to electoral registration officers. The corresponding figures for the referendum on the voting system in 2011 were 40 postal votes and 281 proxies. The use of proxies in such circumstances is recommended by both the Electoral Commission and MoD.

However, it is not possible to know the overall totals of service personnel registered for postal or proxy votes whilst based in Afghanistan as they could have signed up outside the initiative—either as a service voter or as an 'ordinary' elector.

Electoral Register: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which local authorities in Scotland participated in the data-matching pilot scheme aimed at increasing the number of people eligible to vote. [55651]

Mr Harper: Three local authorities in Scotland will be participating in the data-matching pilot schemes—the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian; the City of Glasgow and Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde.

I expect to make a full announcement on the data-matching pilots in June before the schemes are launched in the summer.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what changes have been made to the carbon reduction commitment levy, in respect of energy which is also covered by a climate change agreement (CCA) where the CCA holder purchases energy from a landlord, since the October 2010 comprehensive spending review. [55842]

Gregory Barker: No changes have been made to the CRC energy efficiency scheme requirements where a climate change agreement (CCA) holder purchases energy from their landlord. It remains the policy intent that there should be no double counting of energy use under CRC and CCAs.

Where a CCA facility draws energy from landlord, the energy use will be counted to establish the CRC qualification of the landlord and that landlord will need to include the energy use from a tenant's CCA facilities as part of their once-per-phase footprint reporting obligations. However, the landlord does not need to report energy use covered by a CCA facility in its annual report and does not need to purchase CRC allowances for this energy use.

Climate Change: Developing Countries

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much of the Government's contribution of £1.5 billion to Fast Start finance for climate change from 2010 to 2012 will be provided as loans. [56497]

Gregory Barker: Of the £568 million Fast Start finance committed by the UK in 2010, £500 million was allocated to the climate investment funds (CIFs), the forest carbon partnership facility and the Congo basin forest fund as a capital grant used to make highly concessional loans, and with a small proportion available as grants. £68 million was allocated as grants to the global environment facility and to bilateral country programmes. There is an important role for both grants and loans in climate finance. Climate finance loans are offered on highly concessional terms and can maximise the total amounts of money available for developing countries.

The UK's 2011 and 2012 Fast Start contributions will be drawn from the £2.9 billion International climate fund. We will report on this when it has been disbursed.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56060]

Gregory Barker: DECC's supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone, and *(b)* mobile data services is Vodafone Ltd.

Energy Performance Certificates

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward legislative proposals for the roll-out of display energy certificates to commercial properties. [56199]

Gregory Barker: Better provision of energy usage information will be key to delivering our ambition of considerably higher levels of energy efficiency across the economy. However, we do not believe it appropriate to extend mandatory DECs to the private sector before fully understanding how the potential benefits can be achieved without placing undue burdens on business. We are continuing to explore the evidence.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much he plans to spend on feed-in tariffs; and how much was planned for expenditure on the scheme under the previous Administration. [55983]

Gregory Barker: In last year's spending review, the Government committed to improving the efficiency of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme to deliver £40 million of savings in 2014-15. This would be equivalent to approximately a 10% saving in 2014-15, compared with original projections, reducing costs to consumers to approximately £360 million (in nominal undiscounted prices).

Part of the aim of both the fast-track review and the comprehensive review of the FITs scheme being carried out this year will be to consider how best to deliver the savings committed to as part of the spending review while ensuring maximum deployment at or above the levels anticipated in the FITs model inherited from the previous Administration.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

al-Qaeda

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. [55170]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has regular discussions with the US Secretary of State where they discuss a range of issues including counter-terrorism.

Senior officials across Government are in close contact with their US counterparts on Yemen, including on countering the threat from al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

The Government's engagement with the US, and other international partners, goes wider than just counter-terrorism and includes discussions on much-needed political and development reform in Yemen.

British Nationals Abroad: Sexual Offences

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to ensure that consular staff receive adequate training on legislation for prosecuting travelling sex offenders. [55924]

Mr Lidington: Consular staff in our embassies around the world are there to support British nationals in difficulty abroad. When consular staff are notified of the arrest of a British national for certain serious offences, including child sex abuse, they are required to notify other relevant UK authorities. This is made clear in our publication "Support for British nationals abroad: a Guide" and is addressed in our consular training courses for staff.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier-1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55866]

Mr Lidington: Fair Payment guidance refers to construction contracts only. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold a central record of all construction contracts signed between posts in more than 170 countries and local, tier-1 suppliers. Similarly on the number and timing of invoices and payments to those suppliers, this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55889]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office ensures that construction contracts between itself and tier-1 contractors include a provision for payment between the contractor and sub-contractor in accordance with the prompt payment provisions. The standard wording is used:

> "Where the Contractor enters into a sub-contract with a supplier or contractor for the purpose of performing its obligations under the Contract, It shall ensure that a provision is included in such a sub-contract which requires payment to be made of all sums due by the Contractor to the sub-contractor within a specified period not exceeding 30 days from the receipt of a valid invoice."

Israel: Terrorism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what reports he has received of terrorist incidents in Israel since January 2011; how many British citizens were *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* slightly injured in each incident; and if he will make a statement; [55248]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Arab League on terrorist incidents in Israel; and if he will make a statement. [55249]

Alistair Burt: Since January 2011, there have been two terrorist incidents involving British citizens. On 23 March 2011 a bomb exploded at a bus station in west Jerusalem: one British national was killed and one dual British-Israeli national was treated for shock. On 7 April 2011 an anti-tank missile hit a school bus in southern Israel injuring one dual British-Israeli national who later died of his injuries.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has made clear our concerns about the recent violence in Gaza and southern Israel.

We have made it clear to the Government of Israel that while Israel has every right to protect its people, it is also important that in so doing it also shows restraint and makes every effort to avoid causing civilian casualties.

We continue to call on all parties to act with restraint and do all they can to prevent loss of innocent life, to bring the perpetrators to justice and to reduce current tensions. We renew our calls on all sides to commit to peace talks.

We continue to have regular dialogue with the Israelis, Palestinians and the Arab League at both ministerial and official level. A wide range of issues are discussed at these various meetings, including terrorist attacks and violence.

Malaysia: Burma

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Malaysian counterpart on *(a)* the right of refugees from Burma to live and work in Malaysia, *(b)* attendance by children of such refugees in government schools and *(c)* conditions in immigration centres. [55717]

Mr Jeremy Browne *[holding answer 17 May 2011]*: Malaysia is not a state party to the convention and protocol relating to the status of refugees. Malaysia therefore classifies all undocumented migrants as illegal immigrants under their Immigration Act.

Officials at our high commission in Kuala Lumpur maintain contact with Malaysian officials at the Ministry of Home Affairs, raising issues of refugees and migration. Our high commission staff are also in regular contact with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Kuala Lumpur and other domestic and international non-governmental organisations.

In October 2010 the EU delegation discussed the rights of refugees from Burma to live and work in Malaysia with the Malaysian Ministry of Home Affairs during the visit of a UNHCR team. The issue of refugees will be discussed at the negotiations of an EU-Malaysia partnership and co-operation agreement.

United Arab Emirates: AssetCo

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the use of *(a)* military and *(b)* other equipment sold to the Government of the United Arab Emirates by AssetCo plc in recent actions in (i) Manama, Bahrain and (ii) other cities or towns in Bahrain; and if he will make a statement. [54888]

Alistair Burt: We have seen no evidence that military or other equipment sold by AssetCo plc has been used in Bahrain. We have not seen Emirati forces on the streets in Bahrain and we have seen no evidence that Gulf Co-operation forces have done anything other than safeguard installations. The Government take their arms export responsibilities very seriously, and operate one of the most rigorous arms export control regimes in the world. We do not export equipment where there is a clear risk it could be used for internal repression.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Overseas Aid

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what management and accounting mechanisms are in place to audit the utilisation of financial aid provided by his Department to *(a)* Sierra Leone, *(b)* Niger, *(c)* Liberia and *(d)* Mozambique and delivered through the (i) World Bank, (ii) UN and (iii) African Development Bank. [55923]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government have rigorous systems and procedures to ensure effective financial oversight of funding and to ensure that aid achieves maximum value for money and delivers results for its intended recipients.

We subject all UK aid to rigorous financial auditing, monitoring and evaluation processes. For all grants provided by the Department for International Development (DFID), we require evidence about the use of funds from the partners' own audited accounts, or other audited arrangements as agreed. DFID requirements are built into the funding agreement, which details: the annual audit requirements; the monitoring and review requirements; and the option for the Government to take any reasonable and necessary steps to address the situation in the event that there is any significant failure in the commitments set out in the agreement.

For all new UK aid programmes approved from January this year, the Government have also modified the way DFID programmes are designed so that they are based on rigorous evidence of what works and what maximises value for money and results, through the introduction of a business case model. All DFID projects are scored annually against expected results. Under the new aid transparency guarantee we will ensure business cases for all projects as well as annual reviews and project completion reports are published on the DFID website so they can be scrutinised by the British taxpayer.

The National Audit Office audits my Department's accounts and scrutinises our systems for ensuring effective management and proper use of the development budget. I have also created a new Independent Commission for Aid Impact, the first of its kind, which is able to scrutinise any area of UK bilateral and multilateral aid spending.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier-1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55863]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is not able to disaggregate tier-1, suppliers' invoices from other payment types without incurring a disproportionate cost. DFID UK made 19,244 payments between 1 May and 31 March 2011, of which 15,113 were paid within the period of time specified in the Government's five-day prompt payment guidance.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55886]

Mr Duncan: In accordance with the Government's five- day prompt payment guidance, the Department for International Development (DFID) aims to pay all lead suppliers within five days of receiving a valid invoice.

The Department contracts under the central Government framework arrangement for managed service contracts in relation to construction. We are currently reviewing our terms and conditions for construction contracts to ensure they align with central Government policy, including the Government's Fair Payment guidance.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of *(a)* abortions and *(b)* repeat abortions. [55990]

Anne Milton: Reducing the number of abortions and repeat abortions is very important. In 2009, the number of abortions fell by 3% from 195,296 in 2008 to 189,100.

Contraception plays a vital role in preventing unintended pregnancy and repeat abortions. Since 1 April 2009, any woman having an abortion on the national health service must be given advice about and supplies of contraception before they leave the clinic. In addition, a specification for abortion services has been issued to support implementation of this requirement.

The Department invested £11.5 million in 2010-11 to improve access to contraception. Abortion should not be seen in isolation, but in the context of wider public health issues as the public health White Paper 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England' highlights and the forthcoming sexual health document to be published in autumn 2011 will make clear.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier-1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55865]

Mr Simon Burns: The quantity of invoices received and the number not paid within 30 days are shown in the following table.

Month	*Number of invoices*	*Total number of invoices paid over 30 days*
May 2010	16,491	218
June 2010	17,530	163
July 2010	17,330	103
August 2010	16,122	47
September 2010	16,069	65
October 2010	14,848	58
November 2010	14,956	38
December 2010	13,183	29
January 2011	16,825	72
February 2011	16,959	88
March 2011	16,950	44
Total	177,263	925

Note:
The Department does not differentiate between Tier-1 suppliers and other creditors. The figures in the table therefore reflect invoice payments made to all commercial creditors.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55888]

Mr Simon Burns: Where the contractor enters into a sub-contract with a supplier or contractor for the purpose of performing its obligations under the contract, it shall ensure that a provision is included in such a sub-contract which requires payment to be made of all sums due by the contractor to the sub-contractor within a specified period not exceeding 30 days from the receipt of a valid invoice.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55741]

Mr Simon Burns: Neither the Department nor NHS Connecting for Health hold any contracts which allow contractors to store personal data of United Kingdom citizens overseas.

Diseases: Health Services

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to implement the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer in his 2009 annual report to appoint a national clinical director for rare diseases; [55820]

(2) if he will publish an outcomes strategy for rare diseases; [55937]

(3) whether he plans to publish a consultation document on his proposed plan for rare diseases; [55938]

(4) what discussions he has had with external stakeholders on the development of his proposed plan for rare diseases. [55939]

Mr Simon Burns: We are not yet in a position to say how the recommendation of the former Chief Medical Officer regarding the appointment of a new national clinical director for rare diseases might fit with the new arrangements for specialised commissioning that are set out in the Health and Social Care Bill. The issue of such an appointment is being considered as part of the design work for the NHS Commissioning Board.

The Department is working with the devolved Administrations and key stakeholders to develop a plan for rare disease by 2013, in line with the European Council recommendation. Officials in the Department have held meetings with the devolved Administrations and several key stakeholders as part of the development of a plan for rare disease and will continue to engage with key partners.

The NHS outcomes framework sets out national outcomes goals. The NHS Commissioning Board would decide how best to deliver improvements on the ground and translate the national outcomes into outcomes and indicators that are meaningful at local level in the commissioning outcomes framework. It will be for the shadow NHS Commissioning Board to take forward work on developing the commissioning outcomes framework, with the support of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Fluoride: Drinking Water

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on whether to mandate strategic health authorities to add fluoride to water supplies. [55763]

Anne Milton: Since 1964, the Department has commissioned a number of studies, that show that dental decay is lower in areas in which the fluoride content of the water supply has been adjusted to a level of one milligram per litre. No research has been conducted on mandation since it has been the policy of successive Governments that decisions on fluoridation should be taken locally. The Health and Social Care Bill proposes that responsibility for consultations on proposals for fluoridation schemes and the ascertainment of opinion should transfer to local authorities.

Hospitals: North East England

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* he and *(b)* any other Minister in his Department has visited a hospital in the north east since May 2010. [56249]

Mr Simon Burns: Since May 2010 the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has not visited any hospitals in the north-east.

My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Earl Howe) has visited Darlington memorial hospital.

NHS: Managers

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that NHS managers with previous experience in the private sector are recruited; what importance he places on experience in external organisations for NHS managers; and if he will make a statement. [55798]

Mr Simon Burns: There are no current initiatives designed specifically to recruit people with previous experience in the private sector or external organisations as national health service managers.

The NHS welcomes suitable employees from all backgrounds, and all NHS employers are expected to ensure that their local recruitment policies are fair, transparent and free from discrimination. In addition, all NHS trusts and primary care trusts are expected to comply with the guidelines for the process for senior appointments set out in a letter of 18 October 2006 from the NHS chief executive. Foundation trusts are required to follow Monitor's code of governance for NHS foundation trusts, published in September 2006. Copies have been placed in the Library.

NHS: Reorganisation

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from hon. Members representing Welsh constituencies on proposed reforms to the NHS in England. [54615]

Mr Simon Burns: Further to the answer given to my hon. Friend on 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 701W, as of 12 May the Government have received 10 letters from hon. Members representing Welsh constituencies on the proposed reforms to the health service in England. The issues raised included competition, general practice commissioning, waiting times, the private income cap for national health service foundation trusts, service failure and the implementation of reforms.

In my previous answer it was stated that we had received 12 parliamentary questions from hon. Members representing constituencies in Wales. I regret that this was an error and the correct number was three. We have received no further parliamentary questions since then from hon. Members representing Welsh constituencies.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his proposed amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill. [56248]

Mr Simon Burns: Proposals for changes to the Health and Social Care Bill will follow the conclusion of the listening exercise and the report of the NHS Future Forum. The report is expected in early June.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to the NHS on the effect of the pause in the progress of the Health and Social Care Bill on the implementation of the proposed changes set out in the Bill. [56250]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are currently pausing, listening and reflecting to improve plans regarding the Health and Social Care Bill. Sir David Nicholson, the NHS chief executive, wrote to the national health service on 13 April. The NHS chief executive addressed delivery of NHS services in 2011-12 and beyond, progress on modernisation to date and the effect of the listening exercise on NHS activity.

The NHS chief executive's letter is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_126060.pdf

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Nurses: Manpower

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist nurses for *(a)* breast cancer, *(b)* haemophilia and *(c)* sickle cell and thalassaemia there were in the latest period for which figures are available. [56008]

Anne Milton: The information is not collected centrally through the annual national health service work force census. The annual work force census does not separately identify specialist nurses. However, the 2010 census of cancer specialist nurses in England shows that of the 2,771.1 full-time equivalent (FTE) cancer specialist nurses, 523.32 FTE worked in breast cancer care.

Nurses: West Midlands

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to protect nursing in the West Midlands from the reduction in nursing commissions planned by the West Midlands strategic health authority. [56006]

Anne Milton: The service level agreement between the Department and the strategic health authorities (SHAs) for the multi-professional education and training budget requires SHAs to base their education and training commissioning plans on the work force plans of providers. The West Midlands SHA has confirmed that it has finalised its plans based on work force planning information and following discussions with national health service organisations and higher education institutions providing health professional training programmes. Departmental officials will work with the SHA to review the situation and ensure that the planned level of commissions remains appropriate.

School Milk

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration the early years strategy will take of the effect on children's health of the provision of free school milk in nurseries. [55839]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply.

The Government believe that the early years are crucial to the future success and well-being of all children and will publish a statement of their vision for the early years later this summer. Ensuring that children enjoy good health, including through a properly balanced diet, is an important factor in securing a strong foundation for later life chances.

The early years foundation stage (EYFS) sets out standards for the provision of healthy, balanced and nutritious food and drink for children in child care up to age five. Dame Clare Tickell's recent review of the framework looked at this issue, informed by the report of the Advisory Panel for Food and Nutrition in Early Years. The Government have welcomed Dame Clare's report and we intend to respond to it in full in the summer and consult on improvements to the EYFS. The report was published on 30 March and is available at:

www.education.gov.uk/tickellreview

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in each local authority area received free milk in each of the last five financial years. [55840]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect information on how many children in each local authority area receive a free drink of milk through the nursery milk scheme. All children under five in day care for two or more hours a day receive a daily drink of milk (one third of a pint). It currently funds free milk for approximately 1.5 million children under five years old in approximately 55,000 child care settings throughout Great Britain.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated for the provision of free milk in schools and nurseries in each of the last five financial years. [55841]

Anne Milton: The Department has allocated the funds as outlined in the following table for the provision of free milk in schools and nurseries in each of the last five financial years.

	Funding (£ million)
2006-07	20.6
2007-08	24.2
2008-09	28.2
2009-10	38.6
2010-11	47.8

EDUCATION

Academies

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools have yet to agree a final balance with the local education authority on transferring to academy status. [55915]

Mr Gibb: There is no legal obligation for converting schools or local authorities to notify the Department that they have agreed a balance on conversion to academy status.

The Secretary of State can determine the level of deficit or surplus if there is a dispute between the local authority and the academy. So far the Secretary of State has not exercised this power.

Academies: Berkshire

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of progress on the academies programme in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Berkshire. [55719]

Mr Gibb: To date in the Reading West constituency, Churchend primary school opened as a converted academy on 1 February 2011 and the avenue school has an academy order and is aiming to convert on 1 September 2011. John Madejski academy opened as a sponsored academy on 1 September 2006. A further nine schools have expressed an interest in becoming an academy. We do not release details of these schools at this early stage in their thinking about converting to academy status.

In the rest of Reading, Highdown school and sixth form centre opened as a converted academy on 1 November 2010, Reading school and Kendrick school opened as converted academies on 1 February 2011. A further two schools have expressed an interest in becoming an academy.

In West Berkshire, Kennet school in Thatcham opened as a converted academy on 1 April 2011 and Park House school and sports college in Newbury opened as a converted academy on 1 May 2011. A further five schools have expressed an interest in becoming an academy.

Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010/11 can be found on the DFE academies website at

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

Children: Day Care

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many childcare places for children under five years were provided in each local authority area *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a full-time equivalent in (i) 1997, (ii) 2003 and (iii) 2009-10. [54121]

Sarah Teather: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector of schools, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Disadvantaged: Milton Keynes

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children received free school meals in each school in the Milton Keynes local education authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [51929]

Mr Gibb: Information on free school meal eligibility is shown in the following table.

School level information, for all schools in England, can be found at the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

under the heading 'Publication's Underlying Data'.

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2], special schools[3] and pupil referral units: Free school meal eligibility in Milton Keynes local authority[4,5]—As at January 2010

Establishment number	*School name*	*School type*	*Number on roll[4,5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]*
6905	Milton Keynes Academy	Academy	1,055	242	22.9
2000	Wavendon Gate School	Primary	411	14	3.4
2001	Merebrook Infant School	Primary	174	16	9.2
2002	Portfields Combined School	Primary	564	11	2.0
2003	Chestnuts Primary School	Primary	263	41	15.6
2005	Brooksward School	Primary	279	44	15.8
2006	Howe Park School	Primary	174	17	9.8
2007	Long Meadow School	Primary	423	35	8.3
2008	Monkston Primary School	Primary	421	27	6.4
2009	Knowles Junior School	Primary	177	47	26.6
2010	Knowles Infant School	Primary	161	43	26.7
2011	Queen Eleanor Primary School	Primary	167	100	59.9
2012	Christ the Sower Ecumenical Primary School (VA)	Primary	353	23	6.5
2015	Castlethorpe First School	Primary	40	0	0.0
2016	Middleton Primary School	Primary	423	23	5.4
2017	Broughton Fields Primary School	Primary	405	69	17.0
2035	Emberton School	Primary	28	5	17.9
2042	Hanslope Primary School	Primary	219	14	6.4
2043	Haversham Village School	Primary	37	'—	'—
2062	Oldbrook First School	Primary	155	27	17.4
2067	Lavendon School	Primary	91	5	5.5
2076	New Bradwell School	Primary	293	65	22.2
2082	Olney Infant School	Primary	238	14	5.9
2112	Russell Street School	Primary	172	3	1.7
2121	Bushfield School	Primary	287	58	20.2
2122	Wyvern School	Primary	232	45	19.4
2133	Eaton Mill Primary School	Primary	348	118	33.9
2185	Holne Chase Primary School	Primary	277	26	9.4
2231	Water Hall Primary School	Primary	259	116	44.8
2238	Barleyhurst Park Primary	Primary	202	21	10.4
2247	Pepper Hill School	Primary	123	43	35.0
2272	Greenleys Infant School	Primary	136	58	42.6
2277	Simpson School	Primary	211	70	33.2
2281	Olney Middle School	Primary	365	26	7.1
2284	Langland Community School	Primary	263	116	44.1
2285	Falconhurst School	Primary	329	53	16.1
2294	Moorland Infant School	Primary	81	39	48.1
2299	Southwood School	Primary	178	60	33.7
2301	Stanton School	Primary	223	73	32.7
2303	Great Linford Primary School	Primary	269	50	18.6
2305	Greenleys Junior School	Primary	201	74	36.8
2306	Wood End First School	Primary	82	32	39.0

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2], special schools[3] and pupil referral units: Free school meal eligibility in Milton Keynes local authority[4,5]—As at January 2010

Establishment number	*School name*	*School type*	*Number on roll[4,5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]*
2309	Bradwell Village School	Primary	241	32	13.3
2310	Orchard School	Primary	173	53	30.6
2313	Downs Barn School	Primary	86	24	27.9
2314	Meadfurlong School	Primary	262	53	20.2
2316	Germander Park School	Primary	65	34	52.3
2319	Shepherdswell School	Primary	99	32	32.3
2320	The Willows School and Early Years Centre	Primary	80	23	28.8
2322	Priory Common School	Primary	162	29	17.9
2323	Giffard Park Primary School	Primary	261	32	12.3
2324	Heelands School	Primary	86	16	18.6
2325	Penwith School	Primary	128	49	38.3
2326	Ashbrook School	Primary	179	11	6.1
2327	Summerfield School	Primary	326	55	16.9
2330	Willen Primary School	Primary	371	18	4.9
2331	Heronsgate School	Primary	385	29	7.5
2332	Loughton School	Primary	470	44	9.4
2334	Holmwood School	Primary	178	46	25.8
2336	Caroline Haslett Primary School	Primary	432	47	10.9
2337	Green Park School	Primary	291	14	4.8
2346	Cedars Combined School	Primary	250	21	8.4
2347	Glastonbury Thorn School	Primary	254	21	8.3
2348	Abbeys Primary School	Primary	273	75	27.5
2349	Heronshaw School	Primary	170	14	8.2
2350	Kents Hill School	Primary	167	26	15.6
2351	Drayton Park School	Primary	218	85	39.0
2353	Emerson Valley School	Primary	458	59	12.9
2506	Loughton Manor First School	Primary	180	11	6.1
3000	Cold Harbour Church of England School	Primary	277	17	6.1
3003	Newton Blossomville Church of England School	Primary	25	0	0.0
3004	North Crawley C of E School	Primary	36	0	0.0
3005	Sherington Church of England School	Primary	23	0	0.0
3006	Stoke Goldington Church of England School	Primary	19	0	0.0
3058	St Mary's Wavendon C of E Primary	Primary	95	3	3.2
3066	St Andrew's C of E Infant School	Primary	38	0	0.0
3348	St Mary and St Giles Church of England Junior School	Primary	209	13	6.2
3369	St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School	Primary	283	6	2.1
3376	Giles Brook Primary School	Primary	416	15	3.6
3377	Bishop Parker Catholic School	Primary	189	16	8.5
3378	St Monica's Catholic Primary School	Primary	386	33	8.5
3379	St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School	Primary	265	29	10.9
3383	St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School	Primary	305	18	5.9
3384	Bow Brickhill C of E VA Primary School	Primary	95	[1]—	[1]—
3385	New Chapter School	Primary	280	75	26.8
3388	Oxley Park Primary School	Primary	430	20	4.7
3389	Tickford Park Primary School	Primary	320	13	4.1
3392	Priory Rise School	Primary	116	11	9.5
5207	Two Mile Ash School	Primary	653	53	8.1
5208	Rickley Park Primary School	Primary	400	69	17.3

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2], special schools[3] and pupil referral units: Free school meal eligibility in Milton Keynes local authority[4,5]—As at January 2010

Establishment number	*School name*	*School type*	*Number on roll[4,5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]*
1105	Manor Road Resource Centre	Pupil referral unit	57	22	38.6
1106	Fenny House—the Milton Keynes Tuition Service	Pupil referral unit	84	4	4.8
1107	Milton Keynes Primary Pupil Referral Unit	Pupil referral unit	3	0	0.0
4000	Walton High	Secondary	1,070	75	7.0
4018	Ousedale School	Secondary	1,649	50	3.0
4077	Leon School and Sports College	Secondary	627	232	37.0
4097	Shenley Brook End School	Secondary	1,203	76	6.3
4702	St Paul's Catholic School	Secondary	1,297	112	8.6
4703	Oakgrove School	Secondary	874	98	11.2
4704	Hazeley School	Secondary	910	60	6.6
5400	Stantonbury Campus	Secondary	2,107	392	18.6
5405	Lord Grey School	Secondary	1,209	122	10.1
5406	The Radcliffe School	Secondary	817	204	25.0
5410	Denbigh School	Secondary	1,012	78	7.7
7009	White Spire School	Special	109	32	29.4
7015	Romans Field School	Special	50	13	26.0
7021	The Walnuts School	Special	115	13	11.3
7026	Slated Row School	Special	133	45	33.8
7033	The Gatehouse School	Special	39	13	33.3
7034	The Redway School	Special	77	25	32.5

'— One or two pupils, or a percentage based on one or two pupils.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies. However, there are no city technology colleges in Milton Keynes local authority.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. However, there are no non-maintained special schools in Milton Keynes local authority. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations. Pupil referral units include pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges.

[5] Includes pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15 (age as at 31 August 2009).

Source:
School Census

Drama: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding he has allocated for the provision of dramatic arts in schools in 2011-12. [54955]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 May 2011]*: Schools' baseline funding includes provision for them to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum. No specific funding allocation has been made on top of this for the provision of dramatic arts in schools in 2011-12.

Education: Finance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the £1,200 guaranteed bursary allocated from discretionary learner support funds for those in a vulnerable group is part of the same funding stream as the remainder of the 16 to 19 bursary fund. [53651]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 May 2011]*: Under our proposed arrangements for the 16 to 19 bursary fund, there will be a single funding stream covering allocations to schools, colleges and training providers. The funding will allow them to award discretionary bursaries and guaranteed bursaries to those young people in vulnerable groups.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the number of applications for funding in academic year 2011-12 under the proposed 16 to 19 bursary. [55038]

Mr Gibb: We have estimated that around 12,000 young people may be eligible each academic year for a guaranteed annual bursary of £1,200. Beyond this, the 16 to 19 bursary fund is discretionary and decisions as to who will be supported will be made by schools, colleges and training organisations; no central estimate has been made. We will monitor the introduction of the new arrangements, including how many young people receive support from the 16 to 19 bursary fund.

Free School Meals: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in Sunderland received free school meals in the last five years. [55647]

Mr Gibb: Information on the number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals in Sunderland for 2006 to 2010 is shown in the following tables. The answer includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15.

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1], state funded secondary[1,2] and special schools[3]: free school meal eligibility[4,5], as at January each year, Sunderland local authority

	Maintained nursery and maintained primary schools[1]			State-funded secondary schools[1,2]		
	Number on roll[4,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll[4,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
2006	21,891	4,874	22.3	18,242	2,748	15.1
2007	21,189	4,674	22.1	17,777	2,581	14.5
2008	20,701	4,920	23.8	17,087	2.992	17.5
2009	20,003	4,434	22.2	16,901	2,903	17.2
2010	19.822	4,852	24.5	16,478	3,234	19.6

	Special schools[3]			Maintained nursery, maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1,2,3]		
	Number on roll[4,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll[4,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
2006	492	191	38.8	40,625	7,813	19.2
2007	481	175	36.4	39,447	7,430	18.8
2008	462	180	39.0	38,250	8.092	21.2
2009	450	168	37.3	37,354	7,505	20.1
2010	444	170	38.3	36,744	8,256	22.5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[5] Includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15.
Source:
School Census

Free Schools: Teachers

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether teaching staff in free schools will be required to have qualified teacher status; and if he will make a statement. [54972]

Mr Gibb: Innovation, diversity and flexibility are at the heart of the free schools policy. In that spirit we will not be setting overly prescriptive requirements in relation to qualifications, although a free school's special educational needs co-ordinator and designated teacher for children in care will still require qualified teacher status.

We will expect applications to demonstrate how each free school's governing body intends to guarantee the highest quality of teaching and leadership in their school. No school will be allowed to proceed unless its proposals for high quality teaching are soundly based.

International Baccalaureate

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* state schools and *(b)* sixth form colleges offer the international baccalaureate. [53671]

Mr Gibb: There are 42 maintained (state) schools and 12 sixth form colleges offering the international baccalaureate.

These figures have been based on students entered for the international baccalaureate in maintained (state) schools and sixth form colleges for 2010. We do not hold information regarding the actual number of maintained (state) schools and sixth form colleges offering the international baccalaureate.

Learning Disability: Parents

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assistance his Department provides to parents with learning difficulties. [53149]

Sarah Teather: The Government appreciate that some parents need extra help because they experience a multitude of problems, which can include learning difficulties. There is a great deal of evidence that parenting and intensive family intervention services are cost effective and can provide much-needed help for these families. In December 2010, the Prime Minister announced a new national campaign to support and help turn around the lives of all families with multiple problems. All parents of young children, including those with learning difficulties, are also able to use their local Sure Start children's centre to gain access to early years services.

These activities are funded through the early intervention grant of £2,222 million in 2011-12. The Government want to retain the national network of Sure Start children's centres with a core universal offer, while also ensuring they deliver proven early intervention programmes to support those families in greatest need. The grant is intended to fund universal programmes and activities available to all children, young people and families, as well as specialist services where intensive support is needed.

All parents, including those with learning difficulties, are able to access the online and telephone family support services funded by the Department. The online services have to meet the Department's accessibility specifications and the telephone services use trained staff who are able to support all service users effectively.

Music: English Baccalaureate

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will review the decision to exclude music from the English baccalaureate in light of the conclusions and recommendations of the independent Henley review of music education in England. [55604]

Mr Gibb: The English baccalaureate is not intended as a list of the only valuable or rigorous subjects.

We recognise the importance of music which is why we commissioned Darren Henley's review of music education. We will respond to his recommendations with a new national plan for music education in the summer.

Physics: Teachers

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the number of physics teachers in schools. [55588]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* We have routine discussions with representatives of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics community and other subject associations which help inform policy development. We have also received letters recently from both the Institute of Physics and the Royal Society, in which teacher recruitment has been raised. Raising the number of specialist science teachers in schools is a high priority for the Government and we have already confirmed that trainees starting postgraduate teacher training courses in physics will be offered the highest bursary rate of £9,000 in the academic year 2011/12.

The Department will shortly publish a discussion document on the funding of initial teacher training, including financial incentives for trainees in physics, from the academic year 2012/13. The document will provide the opportunity for those who have an interest in, or are directly involved with, the training of teachers to provide comments on our proposals.

Figures from the school workforce census published by the Department on 20 April showed that in November 2010 the headcount of teachers teaching physics in all publicly funded secondary schools was 5,600. Of this number, 68.6% held a relevant post A-level qualification.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to improve the educational achievement of disadvantaged children in *(a)* Pendle and *(b)* England. [55598]

Mr Gibb: In line with the coalition Government's commitment to raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils in under-performing schools we have invested £125 million in the education endowment fund. This fund, administered by the Sutton Trust, in partnership with the Impetus Trust, has been established to fund bold and innovative approaches to raising the attainment of these pupils.

We have also introduced the pupil premium, which guarantees additional funding for schools with deprived children and ensures that the poorest children, wherever they live, are able to receive the right support. Total funding will be £625 million in 2011-12 and will rise to £2,5 billion a year by 2014-15.

The pupil premium—£430 per pupil—will be allocated to schools, including those in Pendle, in June based on the number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) and those pupils who have been looked after continuously for at least six months in each school. It will be for schools to decide how to spend their pupil premium allocation in order to achieve the best results for their disadvantaged pupils.

Pupils: Dyslexia

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people have been assessed as having dyslexia in each local education authority area in each of the last three years. [54230]

Sarah Teather: Information on pupils with dyslexia is not available.

A table showing the number of pupils with statements of special educational needs or at School Action Plus whose primary need has been identified as specific learning difficulty (SLD) by local authority area for 2008 to 2010 has been placed in the House Libraries. Pupils with dyslexia as their primary need are included in the SLD category.

This information has been published in the series of statistical first releases entitled "Special Educational Needs in England":

2010 data:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000939/index.shtml

in tables 23 to 25;

2009 data:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000852/index.shtml

in tables 21 to 23;

2008 data:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml

in tables 20 to 22.

School Leaving

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the September guarantee in the comprehensive spending review period. [54400]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* My noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Schools, wrote to all local authorities on 17 February to clarify that the process of offering 16 and 17-year-olds a suitable place in education or training by the end of September, which has been known as the 'September guarantee', will continue. This will help to ensure that more young people have the opportunity to continue their education as we move towards full participation of 16 and 17-year-olds by 2015. A copy of this letter is available on the Department's website at:

www.education.gov.uk/offersofeducationandtraining

Data from local authorities show that in 2009, 95.9% of 16-year-olds and 89.5% of 17-year-olds received an offer of a place in education or training. In 2010, 96.6% of 16-year-olds and 91.3% of 17-year-olds received an offer of a place.

Schools: Admissions

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that commissioners are able to assess the effectiveness of the placement of pupils in *(a)* non-maintained and *(b)* maintained special schools. [55540]

Sarah Teather: Local authorities place children with statements of special educational needs (SEN) in non-maintained and maintained special schools. Local authorities are under a duty to arrange appropriate provision for such children so that their SEN are met and to review the statement at least annually to ensure that the provision continues to meet the child's SEN.

Local authorities have Ofsted inspection reports available to help them assess a special school's overall effectiveness. The annual report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of schools in 2009/10 found on assessment of overall effectiveness that 35% of maintained special schools were outstanding, 43% were good, 17% were satisfactory and 5% were inadequate. The report also noted that "one of the successes reported this year is the effectiveness of many [non-maintained] residential special schools, often outstanding at helping children achieve and enjoy what they do".

The schools White Paper, 'The Importance of Teaching', and the Green Paper, 'Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability', set out a strong strategic role for local authorities acting as the champions for parents and families, vulnerable children, and educational excellence. For disabled children and those with SEN, the Green Paper sees one of the core features of the local authority role as working collaboratively with providers to commission a range of high quality provision, and to identify and challenge services that are letting down families.

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils there are in *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* all schools in each local education authority area. [55583]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* The requested data are shown in the following table.

Information on pupil numbers by school type and local authority is published as part of the statistical first release 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2010', available at

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

Number and percentage of pupils by type of school[1, 2, 3]. As at January 2010. In England, by local authority area and region

	Maintained primary[1]		*State-funded secondary[1, 2]*		*All schools[4, 5]*
	Number of pupils[3]	*Percentage of pupils*	*Number of pupils[3]*	*Percentage of pupils*	*Number of pupils[3]*
England[5]	4,093,715	50.8	3,252,135	40.3	8,064,300
North East[5]	202,870	51.5	169,215	43.0	393,780
Darlington	6,801	55.9	5,888	37.4	15,730
Durham	39,538	53.1	30,467	40.9	74,455
Gateshead	15,170	51.8	12,605	43.0	29,305
Hartlepool	8,665	57.2	6,234	41.1	15,155
Middlesbrough	13,661	60.8	8,269	36.8	22,475
Newcastle upon Tyne	19,237	47.0	15,978	39.0	40,955
North Tyneside	15,785	51.7	13,202	43.2	30,530
Northumberland	17,912	37.2	29,265	60.8	48,115
Redcar and Cleveland	12,434	56.2	9,366	42.3	22,140
South Tyneside	11,811	54.7	9,066	42.0	21,610
Stockton-on-Tees	17,414	56.1	11,340	36.5	31,045
Sunderland	22,440	53.1	17,537	41.5	42,260
North West[5]	575,700	53.2	433,975	40.1	1,082,195
Blackburn with Darwen	14,316	52.2	9,456	34.5	27,425
Blackpool	11,338	55.0	7,897	38.3	20,610
Bolton	25,138	52.3	18,910	39.4	48,030
Bury	16,154	53.9	11,117	37.1	29,970
Cheshire East	26,858	49.7	22,337	41.3	54,065
Cheshire West and Chester	24,982	48.4	21,656	42.0	51,600
Cumbria	37,484	50.0	33,576	44.8	74,975
Halton	9,971	54.6	7,536	41.3	18,260
Knowsley	14,223	64.1	7,497	33.8	22,205
Lancashire	89,941	52.8	69,324	40.7	170,400
Liverpool	35,665	51.3	30,766	44.2	69,535

Number and percentage of pupils by type of school[1, 2, 3]. As at January 2010. In England, by local authority area and region

	Maintained primary[1]		*State-funded secondary*[1, 2]		*All schools*[4, 5]
	Number of pupils[3]	*Percentage of pupils*	*Number of pupils*[3]	*Percentage of pupils*	*Number of pupils*[3]
Manchester	41,604	57.6	23,400	32.4	72,290
Oldham	23,499	56.9	15,918	38.6	41,285
Rochdale	19,307	58.2	12,695	38.3	33,150
Salford	19,080	56.9	10,946	32.6	33,550
Sefton	21,706	48.9	19,176	43.2	44,430
St Helens	14,620	55.5	10,661	40.4	26,365
Stockport	22,563	52.4	14,665	34.1	43,020
Tameside	19,747	56.9	14,307	41.3	34,675
Trafford	19,667	50.8	16,562	42.8	38,685
Warrington	17,267	55.6	13,318	42.9	31,075
Wigan	25,382	56.0	19,114	42.1	45,365
Wirral	25,190	49.2	23,142	45.2	51,240
Yorkshire and the Humber[5]	435,500	53.6	331,175	40.8	811,885
Barnsley	19,228	58.9	12,920	39.6	32,645
Bradford	53,648	57.3	33,952	36.3	93,570
Calderdale	18,734	52.2	15,391	42.9	35,880
Doncaster	25,896	54.4	20,493	43.0	47,620
East Riding of Yorkshire	24,476	49.1	22,630	45.4	49,870
Kingston upon Hull, City of	21,012	57.3	13,696	37.3	36,700
Kirklees	35,923	55.2	25,872	39.8	65,025
Leeds	61,545	54.3	45,732	40.3	113,375
North East Lincolnshire	13,390	56.2	9,591	40.3	23,810
North Lincolnshire	13,598	56.9	9,932	41.6	23,900
North Yorkshire	42,761	47.3	40,249	44.5	90,445
Rotherham	22,671	52.4	19,374	44.8	43,240
Sheffield	41,770	54.7	30,392	39.8	76,325
Wakefield	27,911	51.9	21,019	39.0	53,[illegible]
York	12,936	50.4	9,931	38.7	25,[illegible]
East Midlands[5]	349,885	51.0	292,555	42.7	685,800
Derby	21,551	53.6	16,262	40.4	40,230
Derbyshire	58,830	51.9	48,390	42.7	113,450
Leicester	28,099	57.2	17,933	36.5	49,085
Leicestershire	46,950	47.0	45,506	45.5	99,950
Lincolnshire	50,610	47.9	48,250	45.7	105,605
Northamptonshire	55,686	50.0	47,788	42.9	111,420
Nottingham	23,177	55.5	14,733	35.3	41,785
Nottinghamshire	62,442	53.3	51,321	43.8	117,235
Rutland	2,542	36.1	2,372	33.7	7,040
West Midlands[5]	461,070	52.2	360,475	40.8	883,975
Birmingham	102,093	55.2	69,082	37.3	185,080
Coventry	27,599	53.6	19,878	38.6	51,465
Dudley	26,792	56.3	19,694	41.4	47,590
Herefordshire	12,382	50.6	10,058	41.1	24,480
Sandwell	30,280	59.3	20,326	39.8	51,075
Shropshire	20,839	48.0	16,832	38.8	43,370
Solihull	19,183	49.5	17,020	43.9	38,785
Staffordshire	60,940	49.1	56,279	45.3	124,195
Stoke-on-Trent	21,003	59.8	13,105	37.3	35,105
Telford and Wrekin	14,043	51.2	11,823	43.1	27,450
Walsall	25,716	52.5	20,721	42.3	48,940
Warwickshire	39,929	49.1	33,602	41.3	81,275
Wolverhampton	21,959	54.6	15,298	38.0	40,235
Worcestershire	38,303	45.1	36,755	43.3	84,925
East of England[5]	431,910	43.1	386,960	43.0	898,860
Bedford	9,288	31.2	14,872	50.0	29,725

Number and percentage of pupils by type of school[1, 2, 3]. As at January 2010. In England, by local authority area and region

	Maintained primary[1]		*State-funded secondary*[1, 2]		*All schools*[4, 5]
	Number of pupils[3]	*Percentage of pupils*	*Number of pupils*[3]	*Percentage of pupils*	*Number of pupils*[3]
Central Bedfordshire	15,789	40.3	22,085	56.4	39,155
Cambridgeshire	43,932	50.5	32,373	37.2	87,050
Essex	104,289	50.2	89,028	42.9	207,600
Hertfordshire	92,917	46.6	80,327	40.3	199,235
Luton	19,161	57.1	12,294	36.6	33,580
Norfolk	58,632	50.6	49,500	42.7	115,930
Peterborough	15,795	52.7	13,177	44.0	29,970
Southend-on-Sea	13,438	47.7	13,000	46.2	28,155
Suffolk	44,635	42.4	51,422	48.9	105,180
Thurrock	14,032	60.3	3,880	38.1	23,280
London[5]	644,625	51.5	451,055	36.1	1,251,135
Inner London[5]	232,100	51.6	140,330	31.2	449,800
Camden	11,489	39.2	9,892	33.8	29,290
City of London	233	10.3	[6]—	[6]—	2,260
Hackney	18,074	53.1	8,551	25.1	34,060
Hammersmith and Fulham	9,940	41.5	7,051	29.4	23,960
Haringey	21,952	56.8	13,205	34.2	38,665
Islington	13,313	59.7	7,913	34.2	23,145
Kensington and Chelsea	7,046	30.5	3,596	15.5	23,135
Lambeth	20,848	62.3	9,747	29.1	33,490
Lewisham	22,040	56.9	14,065	36.3	38,715
Newham	31,984	61.3	17,970	34.4	52,215
Southwark	22,380	53.3	13,107	31.2	41,970
Tower Hamlets	23,212	56.9	14,783	36.2	40,795
Wandsworth	17,815	44.9	11,494	29.0	39,700
Westminster	11,272	39.7	8,958	31.5	28,395
Outer London[5]	412,530	51.5	310,720	38.8	801,335
Barking and Dagenham	20,144	59.9	13,013	38.7	33,630
Barnet	27,169	48.3	21,516	38.2	56,280
Bexley	20,259	49.1	19,943	48.3	41,290
Brent	24,247	53.7	17,973	39.8	45,190
Bromley	23,706	46.2	22,638	44.1	51,280
Croydon	29,345	49.9	21,032	35.8	58,765
Ealing	27,771	53.6	17,865	34.5	51,835
Enfield	28,679	54.2	22,235	42.0	52,905
Greenwich	21,752	53.8	14,429	35.7	40,455
Harrow	19,793	56.3	9,967	28.4	35,125
Havering	19,228	51.9	16,655	44.9	37,055
Hillingdon	25,339	52.4	18,534	38.3	48,365
Hounslow	19,646	51.8	16,561	43.7	37,930
Kingston upon Thames	12,153	46.4	9,960	38.0	26,200
Merton	16,133	56.1	8,553	29.8	28,740
Redbridge	26,200	50.0	21,624	41.3	52,390
Richmond upon Thames	13,882	46.1	6,649	22.1	30,120
Sutton	14,886	44.0	16,775	49.5	33,855
Waltham Forest	22,196	55.6	14,799	37.1	39,920
South East[5]	625,470	48.1	504,930	38.8	1,300,695
Bracknell Forest	8,903	48.2	6,330	34.3	18,450
Brighton and Hove	17,340	49.3	12,160	34.6	35,135
Buckinghamshire	39,859	47.3	34,724	41.2	84,345
East Sussex	34,898	49.7	27,418	39.0	70,260
Hampshire	94,440	51.5	69,678	38.0	183,475
Isle of Wight	6,293	33.3	11,436	60.5	18,905
Kent	108,669	47.1	99,329	43.1	230,570
Medway	22,196	50.9	19,292	44.2	43,620

Number and percentage of pupils by type of school[1, 2, 3]. As at January 2010. In England, by local authority area and region

	Maintained primary[1]		*State-funded secondary[1, 2]*		*All schools[4, 5]*
	Number of pupils[3]	*Percentage of pupils*	*Number of pupils[3]*	*Percentage of pupils*	*Number of pupils[3]*
Milton Keynes	21,884	53.8	16,674	41.0	40,660
Oxfordshire	47,668	47.2	35,785	35.4	101,070
Portsmouth	13,929	52.0	8,956	33.4	26,780
Reading	10,930	52.3	6,345	30.4	20,890
Slough	12,860	52.6	9,958	40.8	24,435
Southampton	16,152	56.3	10,314	35.9	28,710
Surrey	79,501	44.4	59,584	33.3	179,125
West Berkshire	12,344	43.3	12,067	42.4	28,480
West Sussex	56,398	49.2	44,587	38.9	114,665
Windsor and Maidenhead	8,748	34.9	10,123	40.4	25,040
Wokingham	12,457	47.8	10,170	39.0	26,080
South West[5]	366,685	48.5	321,800	42.6	755,980
Bath and North East Somerset	11,839	40.5	12,518	42.8	29,250
Bournemouth	10,246	47.2	9,742	44.8	21,730
Bristol, City of	29,430	53.5	17,079	31.1	54,980
Cornwall	37,462	51.7	31,859	43.9	72,525
Devon	51,855	50.0	42,628	41.1	103,770
Dorset	23,753	39.7	29,697	49.6	59,885
Gloucestershire	41,593	45.9	39,710	43.8	90,685
Isles of Scilly	275	100.0	[6]—	[6]—	275
North Somerset	15,245	52.0	12,749	43.5	29,330
Plymouth	18,579	48.3	17,894	46.5	38,450
Poole	10,135	51.6	8,296	42.2	19,640
Somerset	35,387	46.3	31,245	40.9	76,435
South Gloucestershire	20,847	51.9	18,376	45.8	40,130
Swindon	16,355	55.7	12,388	42.2	29,345
Torbay	9,532	50.0	8,582	45.0	19,075
Wiltshire	34,151	48.5	29,037	41.2	70,485

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Excludes dual registrations. In Pupil Referral Units, also includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges.
[4] Includes maintained and direct grant nursery schools, maintained primary and secondary schools, city technology colleges, academies, maintained and non-maintained special schools, pupil referral units and independent schools.
[5] National and regional totals and totals across school categories have been rounded to the nearest 5. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
[6] Not applicable, no schools of this type.
Source:
School Census

Schools: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in Coventry are being taught in temporary classrooms. [54952]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 May 2011]:* Local authorities are not asked to report on the number of children being taught in temporary classrooms, and this information is not held by the Department.

Schools: Nurses

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Walsall South constituency employed a school nurse in the latest period for which figures are available. [55009]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 May 2011]:* Neither the Department for Education, nor the Department of Health, collects this information.

Schools: Standards

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to his letter of 10 March 2011 to local education authorities, how many local authorities have submitted plans to raise the performance of schools above minimum standards. [55916]

Mr Gibb: Of the 152 local authorities in England, 147 have submitted plans to raise the performance of their maintained schools above the floor standards. The remaining five local authorities do not have schools below the floor standards and, therefore, did not need to submit a plan.

Special Educational Needs

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State for Children and Families of 30 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 92WH, on children with special educational needs, what mechanisms he plans to put in place to ensure *(a)* (i) planning, (ii) consistency and (iii) quality of local provision and *(b)* continuation of shared services for schools, including training of the schools workforce by speech and language therapists under his proposals that speech and language therapy services may be provided for under personal budgets. [53322]

Sarah Teather: The Green Paper on special educational needs and disability, "Support and aspiration; A new approach to special educational needs and disability", sets out how personal budgets could be used to enhance the control parents have over the support services they receive for their child. We are piloting the personal budget approach to ensure that local authorities properly understand how they and their partners should commission services to ensure all children can access high quality provision, whether or not their parents take up the option of a personal budget The pilots will look at how we can best ensure effective commissioning and high-quality services in the new system.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what provision he expects non-maintained special schools to make for children with special educational needs or disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [55153]

Sarah Teather: Non-maintained special schools (NMSS) provide an important contribution to the range of provision available for pupils with special educational needs (SEN), especially for those pupils with the most complex and severe needs. The majority of pupils in NMSSs are placed by local authorities, who are responsible for an individual pupil's statement of SEN. It is for the local authority to ensure that the provision made by the school continues to be appropriate to meet the needs of an individual pupil as set out in their statement.

Sports: Clubs

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the role of sports clubs in the delivery of physical education. [55654]

Tim Loughton: It would be for head teachers' to decide on the extent to which they involve sports clubs in the delivery of physical education in their schools. The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has made no recent assessment of the extent to which they do so.

Supplementary Schools

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for future support for supplementary schools. [55036]

Mr Gibb: We recognise the contribution that supplementary schools can play in providing out-of-hours educational opportunities for children. In partnership with the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the Department established the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education in 2006 to support their development. Funding was provided by both parties on the understanding that the centre would become financially self-sustaining from 2012.

Teachers: Manpower

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the likely number of teaching posts in England in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [53115]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* Based on the school funding settlement for 2011-15, and assuming current spending and salary patterns remain constant, our estimates are:

	Number (full-time equivalents)
2011	459,700
2012	461,900
2013	465,100
2014	467,000

These figures are an estimate to inform the Department's planning. The number of teachers that each school employs in future years will, as now, be a matter for them to decide, according to local needs and subject to statutory requirements on class sizes where appropriate.

Teachers: Merseyside

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many unfilled vacancies there are for school teachers in Merseyside. [55454]

Mr Gibb: Latest figures from the November 2010 school workforce census show there were six unfilled teacher vacancies in the former Merseyside metropolitan district area in November 2010.

A vacancy is defined as an advertised post for a full-time permanent appointment, or an appointment of at least one term's duration, and includes posts being filled by a teacher with a contract of less than one term.

Teachers: Training

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the proposals in his Department's schools White Paper to trial and evaluate assessments of aptitude, personality and resilience as part of the candidate selection process for teacher training. [55564]

Mr Gibb: We have regular discussions with representatives from within the teacher training sector to discuss a range of aspects of teacher training policy. We are currently considering the detail of the implementation of our teacher training reforms set out in the White Paper, including the proposals on assessments of aptitude, personality and resilience. We intend to publish shortly for discussion an initial teacher training strategy document with further detail.

Teachers: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the likely number of teaching posts in the West Midlands in 2011-12. [54953]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 May 2011]:* The Department has made no such estimate. The number of teachers that each school in the West Midlands employs during 2011-12 will, as now, be a matter for them to decide, according to local needs and subject to statutory requirements on class sizes where appropriate.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Washington and Sunderland West (Mrs Hodgson) of 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 614W, on the teenage pregnancy scheme: finance, at what point after conception the term pregnancy applies in respect of the scheme. [55637]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* Teenage pregnancy is monitored using conception statistics published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). All conceptions to under-18s that result in either one or more live or still births, or a legal abortion under the Abortion Act 1967, are included in the under-18 conception statistics.

Conception statistics are produced to high professional standards and released according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. Conception statistics are compiled by ONS by combining information from birth registrations processed by ONS and abortion notifications from the Department of Health.

West London Free School

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to publish the funding agreement for the West London free school. [55444]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* The funding agreement for the West London free school will be published around the time that the school opens.

TREASURY

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55730]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury does not currently hold any contract that allows contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the information held by his Department to be used to calculate compensation to be paid to Equitable Life policyholders; and what method is to be used to calculate such compensation. [56122]

Mr Hoban: The data that HM Treasury's actuaries have used to calculate payments have come from Equitable Life's policyholder data. The methodology for calculating payments can be found in Annex A to the Equitable Life payment scheme design document that was laid before Parliament on 16 May 2011.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications for the income tax liabilities of Equitable Life policyholders of the receipt of compensation from the public purse in relation to such policies. [56124]

Mr Hoban: The Chancellor announced at the spending review on 20 October 2010 that authorised payments made through the Equitable Life payment scheme will not affect recipients' UK income tax liabilities.

Financial Services: Qualifications

Jason McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the pass rate for diploma examinations sat by independent financial advisers has been since their introduction; [55910]

(2) what the cost of sitting diploma examinations is for independent financial advisers; [55911]

(3) how many independent financial advisers have sat the new diploma course examinations since their introduction. [55912]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority's (FSA) professionalism requirements, as part of the retail distribution review (RDR), require all retail investment advisers to meet a minimum qualification standard.

The FSA's website provides information on the different types of qualifications which meet the required level:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/smallfirms/your_firm_type/financial/rdr/rdr.shtml

A range of providers offer these qualifications.

Pass rates for such examinations are commercially sensitive to qualification providers and, as such, are not publicly available. Out of the number of students sitting such examinations, the number of those that are independent financial advisers is not tracked by qualification providers. However, research carried out by NMG for the FSA in 2010 showed that over 48% of all investment advisers had already attained an appropriate qualification level. While the cost of examinations varies between providers, the NMG research stated that the median cost of attaining an appropriate qualification level per adviser would be £749.

Financial Services: Voluntary Organisations

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has assessed the merits of regulating the provision of savings and loan advice by the voluntary sector. [55765]

Mr Hoban: It is vital that financial advice is regulated, where necessary, to protect consumers. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) regulate financial services and consumer credit activities respectively. Generally, advice on deposit savings is not regulated, except where it is covered by the Regulated Activities Order Article 52B, regarding providing advice on stakeholder products. Activities such as debt counselling are regulated by the OFT.

While the same regulatory rules apply to industry as to the voluntary sector, in many cases the kind of advice provided by the voluntary sector would not fall within the scope of FSA regulation. Voluntary sector bodies that meet the relevant exemption criteria are not charged by the OFT for a licence to conduct consumer credit activities.

Palestinians: Agricultural Products

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when HM Revenue and Customs plans to implement the new arrangements under the EU-Palestine trade agreement to give duty-free access to imports of agricultural produce from the West Bank and Gaza. [56137]

Mr Gauke: Procedures in the European Union and Palestine for the conclusion of the agreement are still ongoing. However, when the date of entry into force of the agreement is known HMRC will issue a customs information paper which will provide UK importers with information about the new improved preferential rates of customs duty for Palestinian products.

Taxation: Underpayments

Jason McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many cases involving suspected tax underpayment by individuals which were successfully appealed were due to pension payments being incorrectly overstated in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11; [55931]

(2) how many cases involving suspected tax underpayment by individuals were successfully appealed in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [55932]

Mr Gauke: When an individual is issued with a notice of an underpayment, this is not an assessment of tax and therefore does not create a legal debt. These notices, known as P800s, simply tell customers what HMRC has calculated as the customer's correct tax position, using the information it holds.

Appeals can only be made when a formal assessment of tax has been made and, on that basis, no appeals have been made. Individuals who think the calculation is incorrect in any way should contact HMRC in the first instance.

Jason McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many underpayment of tax notices were issued to pensioners by HM Revenue and Customs in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [55933]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities office spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56110]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office does not have funding responsibility for any special advisers.

Departmental Public Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities on what date she last travelled by *(a)* London Underground and *(b)* public bus in her capacity as Minister for Women and Equalities; and how many times she travelled on each such form of transport whilst on government business in such a capacity since May 2010. [50276]

Lynne Featherstone: Since May 2010, the Minister for Women and Equalities has not made any journeys using the London Underground or via public bus on official Government business.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to ratify the Cape Town convention. [55653]

Mr Davey: The UK is committed to its ratification, and issued a call for evidence last year July seeking stakeholder views. Following the call for evidence, officials held several meetings with industry stakeholders to discuss the benefits of UK ratification. A Government response to the call for evidence will be released in the near future.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessor paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against his Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54641]

Mr Davey: The Department and its predecessor paid the following damages, claimant costs and defendant costs in respect of civil claims brought against the Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled:

£

Nature of payment	*Financial year* *2010-11*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*
Damages	0	1,000	0	4,500
Claimant costs	0	5,297	0	4,500
Defendant costs	0	3,052	0	11,258
Total sum paid out	0	9,349	0	11,258

The 2007 case was for the Department for Trade and Industry and the 2009 case was for UK Trade and Investment within the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. There have been no civil claims brought against the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Domestic Service: Conditions of Employment

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the proposed International Labour Organisation convention on domestic work. [56489]

Mr Davey: The UK Government support the principle of a new International Labour Organisation convention (and accompanying recommendation) on decent work for domestic workers. We will continue to work to secure a workable convention that can be ratified by as many countries as possible, and consequently protect vulnerable domestic workers worldwide.

Higher Education: Scholarships

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support university outreach work to wider participation under the national scholarship programme; and if he will make a statement. [56517]

Mr Willetts: The Government have been very clear about the importance of widening participation and improving fair access in higher education. We are establishing a new framework, with increased responsibility on universities to widen participation; and greater Government investment in improving attainment and access for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Higher education institutions (HEIs) will deliver a range of outreach activities as part of their access agreements, agreed with the Office for Fair Access, and their widening participation strategic assessments, agreed with the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Broad details of the national scholarship programme were announced by my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister on 10 February and details were placed in the House Libraries.

The programme is designed to help people of all ages whose family income is no greater than £25,000 per annum. HEIs will set their own criteria for determining entitlement to an award from amongst this broad group of people. Institutions will offer a range of support from a menu which includes tuition fee waivers or discounts, subsidised accommodation and other institutional support, and a cash bursary—capped at £1,000. Each eligible full-time student will get a benefit of at least £3,000. All institutions that intend to charge more than the basic rate for tuition from 2012 are required to participate in the programme.

The Government are investing £50 million in the programme in 2012-13, which will rise to £100 million in 2013-14 and £150 million in 2014-15. From 2014-15, with match funding from institutions, we expect that the programme will be supporting up to 100,000 students annually. The programme funding cannot be used by the institution to support outreach activities.

London College of Traditional Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with representatives of *(a)* the University of Portsmouth and *(b)* the Student Loans Company on the future of the London College of Traditional Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; and if he will make a statement. [54863]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* Neither the Secretary of State nor any other Ministers from this Department have had meetings on this subject in their roles as Ministers.

I have received correspondence on the subject and, in my role as constituency MP, discussed this with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Portsmouth.

Research: Finance

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what monitoring his Department undertakes of the level of investment in *(a)* research and development and *(b)* new technologies by the (i) business sector and (ii) regions and nations of the UK. [55847]

Mr Willetts: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects figures on business expenditure on research and development (BERD) within the UK. The most recent data, published in December 2010, showed £15.6 billion was spent in 2009 on research and development (R&D) performed within UK businesses. Total R&D expenditure in 2009 represented 1.1% of GDP, in line with recent years. The regional breakdown for business R&D in 2009 is as follows:

BERD, 2009

	£ million
UK	15,624
England	14,361
North east	313
North west	2,050
Yorkshire and Humber	452
East midlands	984
West midlands	873
East of England	3,898
London	926
South east	3,598
South west	1,267
Wales	321
Scotland	644
Northern Ireland	297

The ONS, on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, also collects data on innovation and investment in new technologies through the UK Innovation Survey.

The latest figures showed 58% of UK businesses engaged in some innovation activity during the three year period 2006 to 2008 by either developing a new product and/or process, or investing in a future innovation.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 19 May 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55895]

John Penrose: The Department does not hold information on the time taken by its contractors (tier one suppliers) to pay their sub-contractors (tier two suppliers). We remain committed to paying invoices to tier one suppliers within five working days. We are a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code and continue to work closely with our tier one suppliers to ensure that the benefits are felt throughout the supply chain by:

reviewing payment performance at meetings with suppliers as part of the standard contract management process;

ensuring all new contracts with tier one suppliers include a provision requiring the tier one supplier to pay the tier two supplier within 30 days; and

enabling tier two suppliers to report any concerns they feel have not been adequately addressed direct to the Department or via the Office of Government Commerce's supplier feedback process.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55735]

John Penrose: The Department hold no contracts of this nature.

Telecommunications: Hearing Impairment

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of text relay services for British Sign Language users. [56149]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has made no assessment of the adequacy of text relay services for British Sign Language users.

Under revisions to the EU Electronic Communications which are currently being implemented by DCMS, Ofcom will be able to specify, where appropriate, requirements to ensure that disabled end-users:

(a) have access to electronic communications services equivalent to that enjoyed by the majority of end-users; and

(b) benefit from the choice of undertakings and services available to the majority of end-users.

To this end, Ofcom are currently undertaking a review of relay services, the objective of which is to assess whether current arrangements for the provision of relay services are adequate in delivering equivalence to voice telephony for hearing and speech impaired end-users (including BSL users). Ofcom expect to publish a consultation document this summer, and a research report which helps inform the review was published on 4 February and can be read at:

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/telecoms-research/ofcom-relay-services/

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated any cost-benefit analysis of introducing a universal video relay service. [56150]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has not commissioned, nor evaluated, any cost benefit analysis on the introduction of a universal video relay service.

Ofcom are currently undertaking a review of relay services, the objective of which is to assess whether current arrangements for the provision of relay services are adequate in delivering equivalence to voice telephony for hearing (including BSL users) and speech impaired end-users. Ofcom expect to publish a consultation document this summer. This review will involve looking at, among other things, the existing text relay service and additional relay services including video relay and captioned telephony. It will include a cost benefit analysis of the options.

Ofcom commissioned research to help inform this review and a report was published on 4 February and can be read at:

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/telecoms-research/ofcom-relay-services/

However, any decision on relay services will have to be made following a process of review, consultation, cost benefit analysis and a proportionality test.

Television: Local Broadcasting

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the potential number of jobs to be created from the establishment of a new national television spine for local television. [55701]

Mr Vaizey: The local TV framework that will eventually be put in place will enable the growth of a new market that will employ a range of people to commission, produce and operate local TV services.

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport by what date he expects the new national television spine for local television to be in place; and if he will make a statement. [55702]

Mr Vaizey: A statement on next steps and timetable for implementation will be made in due course.

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which organisations have submitted bids to operate a new national television spine supporting local television. [55712]

Mr Vaizey: The Local Media Action Plan published in January 2010 invited informal expressions of interest as part of a two stage consultation process. This was not a bidding process. A list of those who responded is available on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website:

www.culture.gov.uk

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what research his Department has undertaken to assess the economic impact of a new national television spine for local television in terms of *(a)* local economic growth and *(b)* creation of local advertising markets. [55715]

Mr Vaizey: The commercial viability review published in December 2010 and carried out by Nicholas Shott, head of UK investment banking at Lazard, looked at a wide range of issues including economic impact and local advertising markets. The costs and benefits of the Government's preferred approach will be set out in due course.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Accommodation

Jim Dobbin: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, if he will make a statement on the House's accommodation policy. [56695]

John Thurso: The Commission agreed on 16 May the principles which will underlie future policy on the parliamentary estate and accommodation. They largely reflect the Administration Committee's proposals of 2006, while also taking account of the savings programme. Proposals in the next few months for putting the principles into practice will be subject to consultation. I am placing in the Library of the House the statement of principles.

Environmental Targets

Jim Dobbin: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether the environmental targets set for the parliamentary estate for 2010-11 were achieved. [56694]

John Thurso: Four targets were set, and significant progress has been made in all four areas, as follows. In particular, for the second year running the two Houses have reduced their carbon emissions. Two of the targets were missed and further work will be needed to meet the demanding targets set for future years.

Carbon emissions: The target was to reduce carbon emissions (resulting from energy consumption) by 7% by 2010-11, relative to 2008-09. For the second year running the two Houses reduced their absolute emissions but this year the target was missed by 1.0%. The target does not take account of space heating requirements and so this measure was considerably affected by the winter weather conditions. When weather factors are taken into account the reduction beat the target by 0.7%.

Water: The target was to reduce water consumption by 12% by 2010-11, relative to 2008-09 which was exceeded. Consumption was reduced by 18.0% on 2008-09 levels. The main contributor was the more efficient use of borehole water for cooling in Portcullis house.

Waste generation: The target was to reduce the volume of waste generated by 10% by 2010-11, relative to 2008-09, which the two Houses exceeded. Weight of waste was down 20% on base year.

Recycling: The target was to recycle 60% of waste generated by weight by 2010-11. Although the rate of recycling was improved, at 49.2% it fell short of the target. Performance has declined due to reduction in reported amount of glass recycled; the cause continues to be investigated but appears to be due to incorrect historic data from the contractor. The new waste contract due to be awarded this summer will require the provider to work in partnership with the authorities in the two Houses to meet our waste recycling targets.

Times of Sittings

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what additional costs were incurred by the House of Commons Service in consequence of the continuation of the sitting of the House on Tuesday 3 May between 10.30 pm and 4.34 am on the next day. [56487]

John Thurso: Full details will not be available until all expenditure claims have been processed: it is likely that many of these will not be received until the end of May. The figures currently available include late night transport costs after 11 pm of £2,708 and estimated *Hansard* printing costs of £2,162. I will write to the hon. Member with further details once they are known.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Government Procurement Card

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 195W, on the Government Procurement Card, what the purpose was of each meal purchased by the Audit Commission using the Government Procurement Card in 2008-09 at *(a)* L'Escargot, *(b)* Bar and Grill, *(c)* Smollensky's, *(d)* RSJ Restaurant, *(e)* Cinnamon Club, *(f)* Bar and Kitchen, *(g)* Imperial China, *(h)* Boulevard Brasserie, *(i)* Grumbles, *(j)* Sirenas, *(k)* Bank and *(l)* Benton Bar Brasserie; and who attended each such meal. [54581]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 19 May 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The payments to (a) L'Escargot were for a dinner for representatives of London Councils with senior Audit Commission staff, and a leaving dinner for a senior Audit Commission member of staff. The leaving dinner was fully reimbursed to the Commission by attendees, and therefore at no cost to the public purse.

Attendees for the London Councils dinner were:

Michael O'Higgins, Chairman

Steve Bundred, Chief Executive

Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell, Chairman & Leader Kensington & Chelsea

Stuart Fraser, Chairman, Policy & Resources Committee, City of London

Cllr Sean Brennan, Leader, Sutton

Cllr Michael White, Leader, Havering

Mayor Jules Pipe, Mayor, Hackney

Cllr James Kempton, Leader, Islington

Mike More, Chief Executive, Westminster

Rob Whiteman, Chief Executive, Barking & Dagenham

John O'Brien, Chief Executive, London Councils

The payments for (b) Bar and Grill, (c) Smolensky's, (d) RSJ Restaurant, (f) Bar and Kitchen, (g) Imperial China, (h) Boulevard Brasserie, (i) Grumbles, (j) Sirenas and (l) Benton Bar Brasserie were for staff Christmas meals. Prior to 2009 each Audit Commission employee was given a £30 contribution towards their team Christmas meal or party. Generally, employees pooled their contributions and put them towards a Christmas lunch or dinner. The Audit Commission ceased Christmas contributions to staff in 2009.

The payment to (e) Cinnamon Club (£230.29) is published in our hospitality and expenses register on the Audit Commission's website.

The dinner was attended by:

Michael O'Higgins, Chairman

Steve Bundred, Chief Executive

Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP

The second payment was for a staff meeting and was fully reimbursed by attendees, and therefore at no cost to the public purse.

The payments to (k) Bank is published in our hospitality and expenses register on the Audit Commission's website. Both payments were for dinners with London councils.

Attendees were:

Steve Bundred, Chief Executive and Colin Barrow, Leader Westminster

and;

Steve Bundred, Chief Executive and Mike More, Chief Executive Westminster

Because the information requested includes personal information, we have been unable to disclose the names of more junior staff who attended meals in b), c), d) f), g). h), i), j) and l) as this would be a breach of the first principle of the Data Protection Act.

Eco-towns

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding streams he expects to make available for eco-town developments other than from the New Homes Bonus. [56381]

Grant Shapps: I refer my hon. Friend to the White Paper "Local Growth Realising Every Places Potential" published on 28 October 2010, which sets out a range of policies and incentives to support locally led growth, including eco-town developments. The document can be found at:

http://businesslink.gov.uk/Horizontal_Services_files/local_growth_white_paper.pdf

Empty Property

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to bring disused residential properties back into use; and what strategy his Department has developed to ensure that such areas of multiple deprivation become sustainable and socially-mixed communities. [55791]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are committed to exploring a full range of measures to bring empty homes back into use. As part of this we recently announced that the New Homes Bonus—which rewards local authorities for new housing development—will include both new homes and empty properties brought back into use. This means that an authority will receive the same bonus for bringing an empty home back into use as for the building of a new home.

We have also allocated £100 million capital funding to tackle some of the most difficult empty homes. Proposals for how these funds will be distributed are currently being developed and a further announcement will be made once the detail of this proposal has been finalised.

The Government are also taking a new approach to regeneration and growth—putting residents, local businesses, civil society organisations and civil leaders in the driving seat. We are providing them with local rewards and incentives to drive growth and improve the social and physical quality of their areas.

Energy Performance Certificates

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects on supply of properties for holiday let of the requirement for such properties to have energy performance certificates from 30 June 2011. [55573]

Andrew Stunell: The Department published an impact assessment which estimated the likely costs and benefits of requiring certain properties rented out as holiday lets to have an energy performance certificate. The impact assessment found that the cost of a certificate was about £75 and that the measure would deliver savings to the industry of approximately £0.15 million per year. The assessment can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/epcholidayletsia

Gurkhas: Resettlement

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) *(a)* how many and *(b)* which local authorities have submitted requests to his Department for additional resources to support newly-settled former Gurkhas; [56139]

(2) if he will assess the living conditions of former Gurkhas who have settled in the UK since 2009; and if he will make a statement; [56159]

(3) if he will assess the resources required to support newly-settled former Gurkhas; and if he will make a statement. [56161]

Grant Shapps: The Government have recognised the issue of inward migration and the potential difficulties that this can cause in some areas. In the past, population figures did not accurately reflect the extent of general immigration. However, for the first time Formula Grant is informed by more accurate and timely population estimates developed through Phase 1 of the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme. This means that those areas that have experienced increased population growth over recent years will receive a larger grant allocation. At the same time, the Government have reduced ring fencing and ended costly central reporting requirements. These changes mean local authorities themselves will be able in future to decide how best to address the impacts of immigration on their areas.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), recognises the difficulties some local authorities are experiencing as a result of specifically Nepalese migration. He has met representatives from Rushmoor borough council to discuss this, and has offered to speak to the Local Government Association to see how local authorities can work together to attract those settling in this country to a wider area. The Cross Government Working Group on Gurkhas has also been reconvened at the Prime Minister's request to continue to monitor the concerns and challenges created by the 2009 immigration policy change for Gurkhas.

Local authorities have powers, under the Housing Act 2004, to assess the risks and hazards in residential properties using the Housing Health and Safety Rating System. If a property is found to contain serious (category 1) hazards, the local authority has a duty to take the most appropriate action. This could range from trying to deal with the problems informally at first to prohibiting the use of the whole or part of the dwelling. This system provides an important safety net, ensuring that homes are safe and free of hazards which pose a significant risk to the occupant. It is in local authority's interests to collect information across all housing tenures through housing condition surveys and to decide on the best approach for their area.

Housing: Construction

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effects on *(a)* the cost of housing and *(b)* council waiting lists of his proposals for new housing. [56347]

Grant Shapps: We are investing nearly £4.5 billion in new affordable housing to help deliver up to 150,000 new affordable homes between 2011-12 and 2014-15 in England.

From April 2011, housing associations have been able to offer the new Affordable Rent product. This will allow us to lever in more private investment than under the old system, to deliver more homes for every pound of subsidy from the taxpayer.

Illustrative modelling of the Affordable Rent policy—including assumptions about Affordable Rent levels and the average proportion of rent that will met by housing benefit for Affordable Rent properties—will be set out in the impact assessment, due to be published shortly.

Our wider social housing reforms will provide landlords with the freedom to grant more flexible tenancies, freeing up more social housing for those most in need. They will also allow local authorities to decide who should go on their waiting list for social housing. An impact assessment covering these proposals is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localismsocialhousingfuture

I also refer the hon. Member to my earlier answer to him of 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1321W, on FirstBuy, which will make home ownership more affordable to 10,000 first time buyers.

The New Homes Bonus specifically rewards the construction of new affordable housing.

Land: Databases

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1181W, on land: databases, when his Department plans to publish a timetable for tendering for the future provision of the supply of aerial photography and height data following the cessation of the Pan Government Agreement. [56418]

Andrew Stunell: No decisions have been made on the future provision for the supply of aerial photography and height data once the current contract ends.

Religious Buildings: Planning

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will consider the merits of bringing forward amendments to the Localism Bill on the provision of guidance to local planning authorities on the recognition of the importance of places of worship as part of social infrastructure. [56132]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Vale of Glamorgan (Alun Cairns) on 18 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 230-31W.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what date special advisers in his Department last used the Government car pool to travel in an official capacity; and on how many occasions a special adviser in his Department has travelled to their home address using the Government car pool since May 2010. [56090]

Mr Paterson: The special adviser in the Northern Ireland Office has not used the Government car pool in any capacity since May 2010.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56094]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office has spent the following amounts on special advisers' travel from May 2010 to 16 May 2011:

(a) Government car: Nil;

(b) Private hire car: Nil;

(c) Train: £974.06;

(d) Bus: Nil;

(e) Commercial aircraft: £16,508.67;

(f) Private aircraft: Nil.

Unlike the previous Administration who routinely used a private jet for travel between Great Britain and Northern Ireland by the Secretary of State, all such journeys since this Administration came to office have been taken on commercial aircraft at a considerable saving to the taxpayer.

Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56766]

Mr Paterson: My Department has not initiated, terminated or amended any longitudinal or other research or data collection in the last 12 months.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff of his Department are entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56447]

Mr Paterson: My Department does not have any staff that are *(a)* entitled to work full-time as trade union representatives, or *(b)* any part-time staff who are employed for the purpose of trade union activities. The Northern Ireland Office has staff representatives who are not paid for this role.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Council of Europe: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what voluntary contributions the Government has made to the costs of each institution of the Council of Europe in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* each of the previous five years. [51963]

Mr Lidington: The UK's voluntary contributions are given in the following table.

United Kingdom voluntary contributions (2005-10)

	Programme	*€*
2005	HR Commissioner Office	47,349.05
	European Youth Foundation	7,174.63
	Support to the programme "Ballons rouges".	28,814.29
	Programme Moneyval	43,050.00
	In-Service training programme for educational staff	1,894.16
	Seminar on counterfeit medicines 2005	14,630.58
	GRECO	105,000.00
	Total	247,912.71
2006	Anti-money laundering measures	43,551.00
	Bern Convention	14,503.26
	HR Commissioner Office	25,335.75
	In-Service training programme for educational staff	26,123.00
	European Youth Foundation	12,584.98
	Language policies	15,179.99
	Project "HEREIN"	29,907.50
	Total	167,185.48
2007	HR Commissioner activities	42,859.20
	Human Rights training of Lawyers	71,281.79
	In-Service training programme for educational staff	10,481.06
	Total	124,622.05
2008	Activities for promoting the effective observance and full enjoyment of Human Rights	62,532.48
	Modernisation of tools and methods of the supervision of execution of the ECHR judgments	21,807.00
	Total	84,339.48
2009	Enhance the Commissioner's capacity to respond rapidly to actual or potential crisis situations	20,277.68
	Promoting and monitoring biological diversity policies through the Bern Convention	27,384.21
	Total	47,661.89
2010	Fight against discrimination	43,195.00
	Promoting and monitoring biological diversity policies through the Bern Convention	11,325.03
	Total	54,520.03

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date special advisers in his Department last used the Government car pool to travel in an official capacity; and on how many occasions a special adviser in his Department has travelled to their home address using the Government car pool since May 2010. [56083]

Mr Lidington: The special advisers have not used the Government car pool in any capacity since May 2010.

South Sudan

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will support in the UN Security Council the proposed visit by representatives of that Council to South Sudan and Abyei. [56570]

Mr Bellingham: We fully support the proposed visit and have made this clear in the Security Council. The UK's Permanent Representative to the UN will form part of the delegation.

Syria: Politics and Government

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his counterparts in Governments in the middle east and *(b)* international bodies on the political situation in Syria. [56171]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 17 May 2011]:* We continue to discuss the situation in Syria with our international partners including in the middle east, at the UN and within the European Union. In those discussions we underline the importance of condemning the violence against civilians who are expressing their views in peaceful protests, the need for the Syrian authorities to show restraint and to respond to the legitimate demands of people with immediate and genuine reform, not brutal repression.

The UK was heavily engaged in the European Union decision to impose a travel ban and assets freeze on 13 individuals in the Syrian regime who are responsible for the violence. On Friday the Syrian ambassador to London was told that if the violence does not stop immediately and all political prisoners are released, the EU would take further measures including sanctions targeted at the highest levels of the Government. Alongside this action in the EU we are working to convince others that the UN Security Council should send an unequivocal message of condemnation of the situation and call for urgent political reform.

Uganda: Homosexuality

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* civil society and *(b)* the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transexual community in Uganda on proposed legislation to impose the death penalty for certain homosexual acts in that country. [56207]

Mr Bellingham: Our high commission in Kampala is in close touch with Ugandan civil society groups campaigning for the rights of sexual minorities. A recent example of this was their support to those seeking an injunction to prevent the publication of articles in the Ugandan press which incited hatred towards Uganda's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transexual (LGBT) community.

Worldwide, the Government are committed to combating violence and discrimination against LGBT people as an integral part of their international human rights work. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has a clear programme for promoting the human rights of LGBT people which focuses on the decriminalisation of homosexuality and fighting against discrimination. This includes taking action on individual cases where discrimination has occurred; lobbying for changes in discriminatory practices and laws; and supporting LGBT human rights defenders during gay pride events, some of whom face hostile receptions and violence.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has had made to the Government of Uganda on proposed legislation imposing the death penalty in respect of certain homosexual acts in that country. [56208]

Mr Bellingham: The Anti-Homosexuality Bill, introduced in the Ugandan Parliament by a private Member, was not passed during the parliamentary term which has just concluded. It remains to be seen whether the private Member will introduce the Bill in the next Ugandan Parliament.

I called Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa on 11 May 2011 to raise our strong concerns about the contents of this private Member's Bill. In its most recent form, the Bill would have further criminalised homosexuality in Uganda by introducing new criminal sanctions for members of sexual minorities and those who promote their rights. This in turn would have a broader, negative impact on the human rights of all Ugandans.

Along with international partners, our high commission in Kampala has lobbied senior Ministers in the Ugandan Government, including the Prime Minister, over a long period of time to make our position clear on the importance of respect for the rights of sexual minorities worldwide, and in doing so we have made clear that we will not deviate from this position.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crime: Prosecutions

Richard Fuller: To ask the Attorney-General how many *(a)* senior executives and *(b)* directors of UK-based financial institutions have been subject to criminal prosecution for financial crimes since July 2007. [55483]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office has prosecuted eight directors and six other individuals defined as senior executives of UK financial institutions since July 2007. The SFO are currently investigating other cases that involve financial institutions both nationally and internationally.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) captures a wide range of information on the volume of specific offences that are charged and reach a first hearing in magistrates courts in its Compass Management Information System. However, these records do not include information about the occupation of the defendant to whom these offences relate or the particular circumstances of the charge.

The information requested is held on individual case files, and may be retrieved only by locating and examining every relevant file in each CPS office in England and Wales which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Attorney-General what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to the Law Officers' Departments. [56068]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is outlined as follows:

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) order mobile phones and mobile data services via the CPS telephony contractor, Global Crossing. Their service provider is Vodafone.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) is supplied with mobile telephones by Vodafone, and supplied with mobile data services by Vodafone and Orange.

The Attorney-General's Office (AGO), Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) and the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), are supplied with mobile phones and mobile data services by Vodafone.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Attorney-General (1) how much each Executive agency of the Law Officers' Departments has spent on travel by *(a)* private hire vehicles, *(b)* trains, *(c)* buses, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010; [56081]

(2) how much has been spent on travel in respect of *(a)* each of the Law Officers' Departments Executive agencies and *(b)* the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. [56184]

The Solicitor-General: The only Executive agency within the Law Officers' Departments is the Treasury Solicitor's Department.

Travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code.

The total recorded expenditure for travel and subsistence for the period 1 May 2010 to 31 March 2011 is £387,490. This includes hotel and subsistence costs as well as all forms of travel.

Central accounts are used to book travel and hotels where practical, but individuals may also be directly reimbursed for valid travel and subsistence claims. We are unable to break down the total cost of travel and subsistence into the categories requested but expenditure through central accounts (eg Carlson Wagonlit for travel and hotels) is set out as follows:

Expenditure through central accounts 1 May 2010 to 31 March 2011	*Treasury Solicitor's Department Agency (TSol) (£)*
Private hire vehicles	14,540
Hotels	106,365
Trains	136,993
Commercial aircraft	34,392
Total	292,290

There was no expenditure on private aircraft.

Train fares in respect of chief executive travel were £38. He incurred no other travel costs.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equality Act 2010

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the potential effect on women *(a)* in work, *(b)* in training and *(c)* in the provision of services of the decision not to implement the dual discrimination provisions of the Equality Act 2010. [49787]

Lynne Featherstone: Women who have experienced discrimination at work, in training or in the provision of goods and services because of more than one protected characteristic will still be able to bring one or more single characteristic claims.

It is not possible to estimate the number of claims that would not succeed as single characteristic claims but would succeed because of dual discrimination.

Left-handed People: Equality

Mr Raab: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission has commissioned research into discrimination against left-handedness. [56232]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 18 May 2011]*: The Government Equalities Office has not undertaken research into discrimination against left-handedness. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has not undertaken research into discrimination against left-handedness.

JUSTICE

Coroners

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the evidential basis on which his decision not to implement the Office of the Chief Coroner was based; and if he will make a statement. [56241]

Mr Djanogly: The costs of full implementation of the Office of the Chief Coroner and Part One of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (which provides for the creation of the office) have been estimated at £6.5 million per year and £10.9 million set-up costs (including a shadow running year). I have now placed a breakdown of these costs in the House Library. The Ministry of Justice's spending review settlement has no provision for the Office of the Chief Coroner.

Corruption

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 453W, on corruption, which colleagues in other Departments, non-governmental organisations and other national and international stakeholders he has met to discuss his role as the UK's international anti-corruption champion. [56412]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Although it is not constitutional practice to disclose details of ministerial discussions, I can confirm that I have discussed my role as the UK's international anti-corruption champion with Cabinet colleagues, Transparency International UK and the Bond Governance group, as well as the US Attorney-General and an academic in the field. I have also discussed the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010 with officials from the OECD.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56095]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Excluding those travel costs where my special advisers have accompanied me on ministerial visits, the Ministry of Justice has spent the following on their travel: *(a)* £0.00, *(b)* £0.00, *(c)* £50.15, *(d)* £0.00, *(e)* £0.00, *(f)* £0.00.

Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the effectiveness of fixed penalty notices; and if he will make a statement. [56572]

Mr Blunt: The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), has frequent discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), on policy issues that affect both Departments and it is not usual practice to disclose the content of those meetings.

The Ministry of Justice and the Home Office worked with the Department for Transport to develop proposals to introduce a fixed penalty notice (FPN) for the offence of careless driving and to increase the level of certain road traffic FPNs, as set out in the Department for Transport's recently published Strategic Framework for Road Safety.

There are a number of FPN schemes in operation across a wide range of offences which provide the police and other enforcement agencies with the means to deal quickly and effectively with low-level offending. Among these are the penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme and FPNs for a number of road traffic offences.

The aim of the PND scheme is to allow the police to impose a swift financial punishment in response to low-level, nuisance behaviour which provides a practical deterrent to future offending. The initial payment rate for PNDs was 53% in 2009. Unpaid PNDs are registered as fines by the courts and are indistinguishable from other fines. The overall payment rate for all fines in the financial year to March 2011 was 93%, and the payment rate excluding the value of administrative cancellations for the same period was 80%. 76% of adults and 67% of youths who received a PND in 2008 did not go on to reoffend within one year.

Fixed penalties for offences in respect of a vehicle provide a quick and simple way of dealing with those offences that do not require prosecution, but do require some formal action. In addition and where appropriate, police officers can offer offending drivers the opportunity to attend, at their own expense, an educational course as an alternative to paying the fixed penalty amount and receiving the associated penalty points. This helps people become better drivers and further reduces pressure on the criminal justice system.

Risley Prison: Suicide

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to the number of suicides at HMP Prison Risley in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [56525]

Mr Blunt: Each death in custody is a tragedy. The National Offender Management Service is committed to reducing the number of self-inflicted deaths in prison custody.

Regrettably, there have been three self-inflicted deaths at HMP Risley in the last 12 months.

There do not appear to be any immediate common factors between the three deaths. Unfortunately, clusters of deaths can occur randomly due to the relatively small numbers involved.

Each death is subject to an investigation and, since 2004, these have been undertaken by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman. Strenuous efforts are made to learn from each death and improve our understanding and procedures for caring for prisoners at risk of suicide or self-harm.

Sexual Offences: Convictions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the conviction rate for each type of sexual offence was in each region in each of the last five years; [56012]

(2) what the average length of sentence handed down by the courts was for each type of sexual offence in each region in each of the last five years. [56018]

Mr Blunt: Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, and found guilty at all courts, the conviction ratio, number sentenced, sentence breakdown and average custodial sentence length, by sexual offence type and region in England and Wales, 2005 to 2009 can be viewed in the table. A copy of the table will be placed in the House Library.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Information for Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Office respectively.

CABINET OFFICE

Census

Alun Cairns: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people completed 2011 Census forms in languages other than English. [56349]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question to the Minister for the Cabinet Office asking how many people completed 2011 Census forms in languages other than English. 56349

The 2011 Census questionnaires were only available in English for households in England, and in both English and Welsh for households in Wales. Translations of the questions into other languages were available as part of the online help. The Census field operation only completed on 9 May and the significant task of scanning, processing and quality assuring the data is in its early stages. It is therefore too soon to know how many questionnaires were not completed in English.

Damian Hinds: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects the Office for National Statistics to publish complete neighbourhood statistics datasets for England and Wales at ward level based on the 2011 Census. [56506]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question to the Minister for the Cabinet Office asking when he expects the Office for National Statistics to publish complete neighbourhood statistics datasets for England and Wales at ward level based on the 2011 Census. 56506

The field operation for the 2011 Census in England and Wales was completed only on 9 May and the significant task of processing and quality assuring the data has now started. The timetable and detailed content of the several releases of outputs from the Census are not yet finalised. The first release is aimed for July 2012 and will comprise the sex/age distributions for local authorities' areas. ONS is expecting to release the first outputs at ward level in Autumn 2012, but the detailed content and means of dissemination of these will not be finalised until the 2011 Census output prospectus is published early in 2012.

Civil Servants: Early Retirement

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate his Department has made of the number of civil servants likely to take early retirement during the spending review period. [22865]

Mr Maude: The civil service pension scheme rules allow civil servants to retire and draw their pension from either age 50 or age 55, depending on the date they joined the scheme. Where individuals draw pension before pension age (generally 60 or 65, depending on pension terms), an actuarial adjustment applies. In practice, civil servants retire at a range of ages, with many choosing to work on beyond pension age.

We have no specific estimate of the number of early retirements during the spending review period.

Community Relations

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Behavioural Insight Unit has undertaken any work on the recent popular protests in North Africa and the Middle East. [56391]

Mr Maude: The Behavioural Insight Unit has not undertaken any such work.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56098]

Mr Maude: Since May 2010, the Cabinet Office has spent £6.50 on private hire cars, £102.00 on train journeys and £1,505 on commercial aircraft for its special advisers.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department plans to cease to fund any of its functions over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [55193]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office during 2010-11 implemented a wide range of measures to reduce cost which will provide benefits throughout the spending review period. Key among these has been the creation of the Efficiency and Reform Group, which has brought together a range of functions allowing it to drive substantial efficiencies and reforms in civil service HR, ICT, commercial and procurement, estates and other support functions. The ERG has also changed the way in which these functions are carried out between the centre and Departments, allowing it over the two years to 31 March 2012 to reduce the headcount and cost of its aggregated functions by around one-third. The ERG has now embarked on substantial reforms of arrangements for learning and development within the civil service, affecting the National School for Government; for procurement by Government Departments, affecting Buying Solutions; and Government marketing and advertising, affecting the Central Office of Information.

Further savings will come from changes to the structure of and programmes run by the Office for Civil Society (OCS). Some functions of the former Social Exclusion Taskforce ceased when OCS was formed. These included responsibility for social exclusion policy and a number of community-related grant programmes (e.g. grassroots grants, community assets fund) which have now been realigned with this Government's priorities.

Elsewhere within the Department, other structural changes have flowed from the review of arm's length bodies. In particular, two sponsored non-departmental public bodies (Capacitybuilders and Commissioner for the Compact) have also been closed. There have also been smaller scale changes within the National Security Secretariat flowing from the creation of the National Security Council and Office of Cyber Security, and publication of this Government's National Security Strategy.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when officials in his Department last met representatives of *(a)* Serco, *(b)* Capita, *(c)* A4e and *(d)* G4S; what aspects of Government policy were discussed at such meetings; and whether future meetings with those companies are planned. [55754]

Mr Maude: Officials in the Cabinet Office meet a variety of companies and outside interest groups on a regular basis. Details of all such meetings are not held centrally and to collate this in the form requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Details of meetings between Permanent Secretaries and outside interest groups are published quarterly on the Cabinet Office website and are available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-office-permanent-secretaries%E2%80%99-meetings-external-organisations

SCOTLAND

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date special advisers in his Department last used the Government car pool to travel in an official capacity; and on how many occasions a special adviser in his Department has travelled to their home address using the Government car pool since May 2010. [56085]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not hold details of which occasions the special adviser travelled in a Government car. The Scotland Office no longer has a contract with the Government Car Service.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56093]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office spend on travel by special advisers between 10 May 2010 and 30 April 2011 is shown in the following table:

			Spend (£)
	Special adviser 1 *20 to 29 May 2010*	*Special adviser 2* *20 May to 9 July 2010*	*Special adviser 3* *5 July 2010 to date*
(a) Government car service	0	0	0
(b) Private hire car	0	0	125
(c) Train	0	226	333
(d) Bus	0	0	0
(e) Commercial aircraft	261	1,675	7,838
(f) Private aircraft	0	0	0

Devolution

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the changes to funding arrangements proposed in the Scotland Bill on the level of per capita Government expenditure in Scotland. [56522]

David Mundell: It is not possible to make a realistic or accurate assessment of future per capita Government expenditure. Following the implementation of the Scotland Bill, the level of per capita Government expenditure in Scotland will be determined through a combination of the spending review, decisions of Scottish Ministers over the rates of the devolved taxes and the rate of economic growth in Scotland and the UK.

Offshore Industry: Profits

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 948W, on offshore industry, what proportion of pre-tax profits in the oil and gas sector in 2011 he estimates can be attributed to the *(a)* oil and *(b)* gas sector. [56011]

Michael Moore: It is not possible to estimate the split of taxable profits between oil and gas as they are taxed together.

Scottish Grand Committee

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has any plans to bring forward proposals for a meeting of the Scottish Grand Committee; and if he will make a statement. [56430]

Michael Moore: The Scottish Grand Committee has not met since 2003. The possibility of the Committee meeting is always kept under review.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will meet hon. and right hon. Members representing Scottish constituencies to discuss the Scottish Grand Committee. [56520]

Michael Moore: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and I are always happy to meet hon. and right hon. Members representing Scottish constituencies to discuss any issues they wish to raise.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Fisheries: Quotas

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what share of the sea fishing quota is held by fishermen using vessels of under 10 metres. [56200]

Richard Benyon: The opening quota for the 10 metre and under fleet is boosted by fisheries administrations acquiring additional quota in-year for their use. Information on the under 10 metre fleet's share of quota at 31 December 2010 is in Table 1. However, focusing on such an analysis can be misleading, as some of the quota stocks included are of little interest to inshore vessels. In addition, many of these vessels catch types of fish, such as crabs and scallops, which are not subject to the constraints on their activity that may be seen when targeting quota species. Figures for landings of quota stocks and non-quota stocks are also included in the table and show that 79% of all landings by the UK 10 metre and under fleet in 2010 were of non-quota stocks.

Table 1: Stocks fished by the UK's 10 metre and under fleet[1]: 2010

Quota stocks	*UK quota as at 31 December (tonnes)*	*10 metre and under fleet's quota as at 31 December[2] (tonnes)*	*Percentage of UK quota*	*Landings by the 10 metre and under fleet [3] (tonnes)*	*Percentage of UK quota*
Anglers 7 (incl. 8abde)	6,078.5	196.6	3	187.3	3
North Sea Anglers	9,762.9	20.8	0	11.4	0
West of Scotland Anglers	2,518.2	5.8	0	0.1	0
Cod 73	386.6	4.8	1	2.2	1
Cod 7b-k (excl 7d)	325.5	85.1	26	83.8	26
Cod7d	196.5	93.2	47	66.1	34
North Sea Cod	14,281.4	571.5	4	556.9	4
West of Scotland Cod	138.6	0.4	0	0.1	0
North Sea Dabs and Flounders	1,395.0	31.6	2	18.0	1
Haddock 7a	799.1	14.6	2	0.4	0
Haddock 7b-k	943.5	71.4	8	59.7	6
North Sea Haddock	25,367.5	93.0	0	90.4	0
Hake 65,7 (incl 8abde)	4,046.5	20.5	1	2.2	0
North Sea Hake	1,989.3	0.7	0	0.6	0
Herring 4c/7d	1,799.0	101.5	6	72.2	4
Herring 7a (Manx and Mourne)	5,030.4	2.4	0	0.1	0
Herring 7ef	500.0	271.7	54	146.2	29
North Sea Horse Mackerel	4,396.3	2.0	0	1.6	0
West Coast Horse Mackerel	15,651.8	4.6	0	3.6	0
North Sea Lemon Sole and Witches	3,983.0	72.2	2	43.6	1
Deep Sea Ling 4	2,079.6	8.8	0	8.7	0
Deep Sea Ling 6-10,12.14	2,974.7	125.5	4	50.8	2
North Sea Mackerel	1,754.0	489.0	28	481.5	27
West Coast Mackerel	159,098.8	116.0	0	117.8	0
Megrim 7	3,312.6	37.2	1	6.0	0
North Sea Megrims	1,678.0	1.3	0	0.1	0
Nephrops 7	8,831.2	161.0	2	117.1	1
North Sea Nephrops	22,834.6	1,292.2	6	877.6	4
West of Scotland Nephrops	17,906.8	1,675.9	9	1,602.0	9
Plaice 7a	547.6	63.7	12	33.9	6
Plaice 7de	1,360.8	316.5	23	296.5	22
Plaice 7fg	59.6	12.6	21	11.5	19
North Sea Plaice	14,763.0	49.0	0	42.8	0
Pollack 7	2,395.5	574.2	24	463.0	19
West of Scotland Pollack	148.0	5.0	3	1.9	1
Saithe 7	447.0	11.0	2	3.7	1
North Sea Saithe	12,094.0	13.7	0	11.1	0
Skates and Rays 6, 7b-k (excl 7d)	3,460.0	679.2	20	434.0	13
Skates and Rays 7d	136.0	96.1	11	92.2	68
North Sea Skates and Rays	676.7	161.8	24	130.6	19
Sole 7a	94.3	8.7	9	2.4	3
Sole 7d	913.0	552.6	61	449.8	49
Sole 7e	365.1	22.1	6	20.5	6
Sole 7fg	309.6	25.4	6	8.2	3
North Sea Sole	1,206.5	310.2	26	243.9	20
Sprat 7de	4,429.0	92.5	2	22.4	1
North Sea Sprat	5,607.0	159.9	3	66.1	2
North Sea Spurdog	20.0	0.0	0	0.7	4
North Sea Turbot and Brill	610.0	16.8	3	14.7	2
North Sea Whiting	7,782.0	325.4	4	350.4	5
Whiting 7a	60.2	1.0	2	0.2	0
Whiting 7b-k	1,152.8	210.4	18	180.7	16
Total quota stocks	378,697.6	9,279.1	2	7,509.5	2
Total non-quota stocks	n/a	n/a	n/a	27,981.4	n/a
Total all species	n/a	n/a	n/a	35,490.9	n/a

[1] Excludes vessels which are members of producer organisations.

[2] Includes unfished leased quota by vessels in the 10 metre and under fleet.

[3] Excludes landings against leased quota.

Fishing Vessels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fishing vessels of *(a)* 10 metres and under and *(b)* over 10 metres are licensed in the UK. [56215]

Richard Benyon: Latest figures show that there are currently 5,744 vessels licensed in the UK, excluding the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Of those, 1,320 are over 10 metres and 4,424 are 10 metres and under.

Source:

Marine Management Organisation's Citrix database.

Floods: Greenwich

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will instruct the Environment Agency to carry out an assessment of the Sutcliffe Park flood alleviation scheme to ensure that it has the capacity to prevent flooding from the River Quaggy into neighbouring residential areas; and if she will make a statement; [56236]

(2) whether she has received any recommendation from the Environment Agency on the capacity of the Sutcliffe Park flood alleviation scheme to prevent damage to neighbouring residential areas; and if she will make a statement. [56237]

Richard Benyon: Sutcliffe Park Flood Storage Area was completed in 2007 as part of a wider project, known as the River Quaggy Flood Alleviation Scheme. It was designed to protect properties from floods with a 1 in 70 probability of occurring in any one year.

When the Environment Agency (EA) designed the River Quaggy Flood Alleviation Scheme it included an allowance for climate change over the next 100 years and increased the capacity of the scheme to take this into account.

Since completion in 2007, the level of the flood defence has been annually inspected by both the EA and an independent engineer (appointed by the Institution of Civil Engineers), to ensure there has been no subsidence or deterioration of standards. These inspections show that all the defences are in good condition and providing the level of flood protection expected.

There are no current recommendations from the EA concerning Sutcliffe Park. Annual inspections of Sutcliffe Park will continue for its lifetime to ensure the capacity and standard of defence is maintained at the level to which it was designed.

Floods: Insurance

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of reductions in public spending on flood defence on compliance with the Statement of Principles on the provision of flood insurance of July 2008. [55975]

Richard Benyon: We are working closely with the insurance industry through the Flood summit process to understand the relationship between insurance and flood risk management as well as possible and to map out a pathway for flood insurance beyond 2013 when the Statement of Principles expires. DEFRA has committed to spend at least £2.1 billion on flooding and coastal erosion over the next four years. This represents approximately an 8% reduction compared to the previous four years.

Hydrofluorocarbons

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to her Department's Carbon Plan, March 2011, paragraph 10.13, what progress she has made on reducing the *(a)* production and *(b)* use of hydrofluorocarbon in (i) the refrigeration industry and (ii) heat pumps. [56173]

Richard Benyon: A comprehensive EU regulatory framework to contain, prevent and, thereby, reduce emissions of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) from equipment such as refrigeration and heat pumps is already in place having been fully implemented since 2009 in Great Britain by the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/261). However, this framework stops short of controls to phase down the production of the gases themselves.

There are existing proposals at an international level to use the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to phase down the production and use of HFCs. This would affect all types of equipment, not just refrigeration and heat pumps. The UK Government remain supportive, in principle, of an international phase-down of production and consumption of HFCs but there are many technical issues to be discussed before any formal negotiations on a phase-down could take place. The Government will continue to push for the development of a phase-down agreement at the upcoming Montreal Protocol and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meetings, and support this aim. Further detailed analysis of impacts of the proposals will also be conducted.

The latest estimate of HFC emissions from refrigeration, based on the assessment by the consultants AEA, available at:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/fgas/documents/hfc-aeat101005.pdf

was 4,336.7 kt CO_2e in 2009[1]. The latest projections of HFC emissions from refrigeration in 2030 is 1,693.9 kt CO_2e.

The AEA study also estimated that 0.06 kt CO_2 eq. of HFC 134a would be emitted from heat pumps in 2009, rising to 0.16 kt CO_2 eq. of HFC134a by 2025. It should be noted that these estimates are highly uncertain, and are very small in relation to HFC emissions from the other sectors. These estimates of emissions are currently not included in either the main F-gas model or the UK national greenhouse gas emission totals, and further work is needed to refine the fundamental parameters before the emissions from this sector can be included.

[1] UK GHG Inventory 1990-2009

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her proposals for further restrictions on the sale of alcohol to children will apply to micro-businesses. [55449]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 13 May 2011]*: We have made provision in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill to tackle the persistent sale of alcohol to children. Our intention is that these measures will apply to all businesses.

Animal Experiments

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to withhold any certificate of designation for the proposed Marshall Biosciences beagle breeding factory at Grimston, East Yorkshire for the purposes of reducing the use of animals in painful laboratory experiments; and if she will make a statement. [56136]

Lynne Featherstone: Under Section 7 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, places where animals specified in schedule 2 to the Act are bred for use in regulated procedures, or are kept for supply for use in such procedures or to other designated sources, must be designated as breeding and/or supplying establishments. Applications for designation are considered on a case by case basis according to their merits. It is not Home Office policy to comment on individual applications.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to give a right of redress against enforcement authorities to persons who have been subject to antisocial behaviour in circumstances where complaints of such behaviour have not been addressed appropriately. [56029]

James Brokenshire: On 7 February 2011, the Home Office launched a public consultation on proposals to give the police and their partners more effective powers to tackle antisocial behaviour. The proposals include the introduction of a "Community Trigger", which would give communities the right to force agencies to take action where they have failed to do so, and elected police and crime commissioners will be able to hold agencies to account for their response. The consultation closed on 17 May, and the Department is considering the responses.

DNA: Databases

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for information held on the National DNA Database her Department received from other countries in each year since 2007. [53344]

James Brokenshire: There are three categories of information sought from the National DNA Database (NDNAD) by other countries.

1. Searches carried out against the NDNAD of DNA profiles from outstanding serious crimes or for the identification of an unknown deceased person believed to be a UK national. Reports are issued directly to the United Kingdom National Central Bureau for Interpol (UK NCB) based at the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) as to the outcome of each profile search. This information can be found at Table 1, Annex A.

2. Requests for the DNA profile held for a subject on the NDNAD, where fingerprints have been provided to the country that the individual currently resides in. Again this information is provided to SOCA. This information can be found at Table 2, Annex A.

3. Database management information. This provides total numbers of subject and crime scene DNA profile records held on the NDNAD and the total number of match reports generated. Countries which do not have a DNA database use this information to demonstrate the success of the UK Database in order to support their case for legislation of a DNA database in their own country. Requestors are directed to the most recent published statistics on the National Policing Improvement Agency's NDNAD website at:

http://www.npia.police.uk/en/8934.htm

No figures are kept for the number of such requests.

Data provided are management information only. Data have not been formally assessed for compliance with the code of practice for official statistics.

Table 1

	Number of searched profile responses provided to SOCA
2007-08	727
2008-09	573
2009-10[1]	377
2010-11	[2]—

[1] Data are not available for the period October 2009-January 2010.

[2] Figures not yet available

Note:

Data provided are management information only and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the code of practice for official statistics.

Table 2

	Number of subject profiles provided to SOCA
2007-08	89
2008-09	128
2009-10	138
2010-11	[1]—

[1] Figures not yet available.

Note:

Data provided are management information only and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the code of practice for official statistics.

Domestic Violence: Advisory Services

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which local authority areas her Department allocated funding in respect of independent domestic violence advisers in financial year 2010-11 but are no longer in receipt of such funding. [55901]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 16 May 2011]*: This information is not readily available in the format requested. A list of the grants we funded in 2010-11 which covers independent domestic violence advisers (IDVAs) (and where there was a combined grant some multi-agency risk assessment conference coordinator (MARAC) posts) will be placed in the House Library. A list of those who received funding in 2011-12 can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/idva/

Drugs

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the 2010 Drugs Strategy. [55752]

James Brokenshire: Since January, the Home Office has received three representations linked specifically to the 2010 Drug Strategy.

The two-week pilot of the 'drug strategy blog' received nearly 6,000 visits and 86 posts were published, after appropriate moderation.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department are working on the Government's review of the 2010 Drugs Strategy; and whether such officials have met representatives of *(a)* Serco, *(b)* Capita, *(c)* A4e and *(d)* G4S. [55753]

James Brokenshire: The terms of the annual review are still being scoped. No officials have met the organisations listed.

Entry Clearances: Private Education

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons private schools are treated differently from higher education institutions in the private sector who have highly trusted status but not accreditation required to increase their number of students from September 2011 under the immigration rules relating to institutions providing education and professional training. [56414]

Damian Green: The Government have two key aims in their reform of the student immigration system: to tackle abuse of the student system and support work on reducing migration to sustainable levels. The independent school sector is a highly regulated part of the education sector, with independent schools subject to statutory regulation, overseen by the relevant Departments and inspectorates responsible for education across the UK. In our experience of operating Tier 4, the independent school sector has demonstrated good levels of compliance with immigration requirements.

Independent schools primarily use the Tier 4 (Child) category as the majority of their pupils are aged between four and 17-years-old, using the Tier 4 (General) category for the very small number of pupils who need to apply to the UK Border Agency once aged 18 or over. Independent schools have therefore been excluded from the interim limit on the number of Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies they may assign under Tier 4 (General) between 21 April 2011 and 5 April 2012, because of the low levels of abuse and small numbers using the Tier 4 (General) category when compared with other sectors which are not subject to statutory regulation, have higher levels of non-compliance and higher numbers of students attending institutions within the sector.

Greater Manchester Police Authority

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contribution the Greater Manchester Police Authority made to the Exchequer as a result of assets seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [55480]

James Brokenshire: Information on the value of monies received under cash forfeiture orders and confiscation orders obtained by the Greater Manchester police authority under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, and earlier legislation, and subsequently enforced is set out in the following table. The enforcement of confiscation orders is essentially a matter for HM Courts Service. Information is available for the three financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

£

Greater Manchester police authority	*Cash forfeiture receipts*	*Confiscation receipts*	*Total receipts*
2007-08	420,358	425,547	845,905
2008-09	521,068	389,620	910,688
2009-10	834,463	344,859	1,179,322

Members: Correspondence

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Thurrock of 14 February 2011. [56133]

Damian Green: I replied to my hon. Friend the Member for Thurrock on 19 May 2011.

Victim Support Schemes: Newcastle upon Tyne

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* independent domestic violence advisers and *(b)* independent sexual violence advisers were employed in Newcastle upon Tyne (i) on the latest date for which information is available and (ii) in each of the last five years. [56409]

Lynne Featherstone: The requested information is not collected centrally as funding for independent sexual violence adviser (ISVA) and independent domestic violence adviser (IDVA) posts can come from a range of local and national sources.

A sub-set of ISVA posts has been partially funded by the Home Office since 2006-07. Of these, the REACH sexual assault referral centre in Newcastle upon Tyne was a recipient of Home Office funding for one ISVA post in 2009-10 and for 2011-12 to 2014-15.

The Home Office has also awarded funding for one IDVA post to Newcastle Victim Support for 2011-12 to 2014-15.

HEALTH

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56107]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has two special advisers. The information requested, covering the period from 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011, is set out in the following table:

Mode of transport	*Expenditure (£)*
Government car	0
Private hire car/taxi	0
Train	2,277.50
Bus	0
Commercial aircraft	2,506.10
Private aircraft	0

Source:
Data have been extracted from the Department's electronic Business Management System

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56064]

Mr Simon Burns: Vodafone are the suppliers of both mobile telephony and mobile data services. These services are provided to the Department by Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) under a managed service agreement.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much each executive agency of his Department has spent on travel by *(a)* private hire vehicles, *(b)* trains, *(c)* buses, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010; [56073]

(2) how much has been spent on travel in respect of *(a)* each of his Department's executive agencies and *(b)* the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. [56179]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is the only executive agency of the Department.

Since May 2010, the MHRA has spent £55,793.47 on private hire vehicles, £234,872.35, on trains, £1,310.89 on buses, £994,273.01 on commercial aircraft and nothing on private aircraft.

Since May 2010, the MHRA has spent a total of £1,286,358.22 on travel and £2,865.23 on travel for the chief executive.

Fluoride

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his policy is on the provision by his Department of funding for fluoridation to strategic health authorities where consultations show local communities not to be in favour of fluoridation; [56567]

(2) on what date funding by his Department for fluoridation in pursuance of the announcement of February 2008 ceased to be available; and what plans he has for the availability of funds for fluoridation in 2011-12. [56568]

Anne Milton: The central allocation for funding the capital costs of fluoridation schemes, announced by the previous Government in February 2008, covered the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011. It is now for strategic health authorities and the primary care trusts that would be affected to agree how expenditure on fluoridation can be provided for from the overall allocations they receive for capital and revenue expenditure.

Fluoride: Southampton

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department made funding for fluoridation available to South Central Strategic Health Authority for use in Southampton and parts of Totton in the period from April 2008 to March 2011. [56566]

Anne Milton: In November 2006, the Department allocated £35,000 to South Central Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to commission consultants to conduct a feasibility study of fluoridating Southampton. The study found that, in addition to 160,000 residents of Southampton, the water distribution system also served approximately 35,000 people living in parts of Eastleigh, Totton and Netley in south-west Hampshire. The SHA has funded subsequent expenditure on the proposed fluoridation scheme from its own resources.

Hospitals

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the productivity of *(a)* military and *(b)* NHS hospitals. [56128]

Mr Simon Burns: United Kingdom national health service productivity is measured by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and most recent estimates from 1996 are given in the following table.

Growth in UK NHS productivity 1996 to 2009

	Percentage
1996	-1.4
1997	0.4
1998	-0.6
1999	0.5
2000	-0.5
2001	1.6
2002	-2.0
2003	-1.6
2004	-0.4
2005	0.1
2006	1.3
2007	-0.6
2008	-0.1
2009	0.7

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Figures contain data from all UK countries.
3. Figures include some adjustments for the quality of care delivered.
Source:
Hardie M; et al (2011) Public Service Output, Inputs and Productivity: Healthcare, ONS.

The National Audit Office as part of their work for the Public Accounts Committee asked ONS to disaggregate their measure of productivity to show the trend in hospital productivity from 2000 to 2008. This showed that hospital productivity has declined by an average of -1.4% per year, with an adjustment made for the quality of services. This compares to an average decline of -0.2% per year across the NHS as a whole.

At present no data exist to compare productivity between NHS hospitals. There are no military hospitals in the UK. There are NHS hospitals with military wings, however productivity data are not collected for these wings.

It should be noted that figures differ from the answer I gave the hon. Member for Stafford (Jeremy Lefroy) on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 140W, following revisions made by ONS to the historic series in their most recent article published in March 2011.

North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has had recent discussions on the potential merger of North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust with another trust; and if he will make a statement. [56474]

Mr Simon Burns: No formal discussions have taken place with Ministers on a potential merger of the Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (previously North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust) with another NHS trust.

At a Westminster Hall debate on 4 May 2011 entitled "Private Finance Initiative Hospitals", the potential for the St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust to merge with another NHS trust as an option for achieving foundation trust status was discussed. The Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was identified as a possible merger partner, given its geographical proximity to the St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. However, the St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is still considering all options that are available to achieve foundation trust status.

On 16 May 2011, I briefly discussed this issue in a telephone conversation with my hon. Friend the Member for Warrington South (David Mowat).

Work is continuing on the development of a tripartite formal agreement between St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust, North West strategic health authority and the Department to set out the agreed options that will enable the trust to obtain foundation trust status.

Nurses: Manpower

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the role of specialist sickle cell and thalassaemia nurses in *(a)* improving patient experience, *(b)* improving patient outcomes and *(c)* reducing costs to the NHS. [56009]

Anne Milton: The Government have not made an assessment of the role of specialist sickle cell and thalassaemia nurses in improving patient experience and outcomes or costs to the national health service. The Government acknowledge the vital role that specialist nurses have in supporting patients with the management of these long-term conditions. Local NHS organisations are best placed to develop service models that put patients at the heart of care and have a clear and rigorous focus on improving health outcomes.

Southern Cross Healthcare

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in discussions with Southern Cross Healthcare on the continuing provision of service to their clients; and if he will make a statement. [56367]

Paul Burstow: Southern Cross has plans in place to restructure its business and ensure that services and quality are maintained and is keeping the Government updated on progress.

We will continue to keep in close touch with the situation and will work with local authorities, the Care Quality Commission and others to ensure there is an effective response, which delivers protection to everyone affected.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Information Officers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press officers his Department employs. [55318]

Norman Baker: The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff employed on press officer activities on 1 April 2011 by the Department is set out in the following table.

Staff (FTE) employed on press officer activities on 1 April 2011

	Number
Department for Transport (Central)	14
Driving Standards Agency	3
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	4
Government Car and Despatch Agency	0
Highways Agency	13
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	2
Vehicle Certification Agency	0
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	1.6

The Highways Agency has a team of regional press officers to support its role in operating, maintaining and improving the strategic road network in each region. These press officers are employed primarily to keep the public informed of roadworks, incidents and events which might affect their journeys.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against his Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54627]

Norman Baker: I regret that this information cannot be provided other than at disproportionate cost.

Driving: Insurance

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department takes to monitor trends in motor insurance premiums; and if he will make a statement. [55011]

Mike Penning: The setting of insurance premiums is a matter for the insurers based on a commercial decision. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects data on family expenditure on vehicle taxation and insurance costs, but this Department does not separately monitor premiums.

I welcome the recent Transport Select Committee's report, "The cost of motor insurance" and agree with their conclusions on the importance of this issue and the need to look at a range of ways of reducing costs. The Department for Transport will need time to fully consider and formally respond to the report. A seminar to discuss the issues with key interested parties is being planned.

Large Goods Vehicles: Accidents

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of traffic accidents on motorways involved a heavy goods vehicle with a foreign registration in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what proportion of such incidents were attributed to poor visibility or blind spots on such vehicles. [53204]

Mike Penning: The following table shows the number of reported personal injury road accidents on motorways involving foreign registered heavy goods vehicles in Great Britain in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 (the latest data for which information is available):

		Accidents
Accidents	*(a) 2008*	*(b) 2009*
On motorways	7,249	6,643
Of which involved a foreign registered HGV	409	354
Proportion involving a foreign registered HGV (percentage)	6	5

It is not possible to identify accidents where a blind spot of, or an area of poor visibility on, a vehicle contributed to the accident.

However, the following table shows the number of accidents on motorways involving a foreign registered heavy goods vehicle in Great Britain where the contributory factor "vehicle blind spot" was assigned to a foreign HGV by a police officer attending the scene:

		Accidents
Accidents	*(a) 2008*	*(b) 2009*
On motorways[1]	6,317	5,830
Of which involved a foreign registered HGV assigned the contributory factor "vehicle blind spot"	143	155
Proportion involving a foreign registered HGV (percentage)	2	3

[1] Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported.

Motor Vehicle: Testing

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the effects of moving to MOT inspections every two years for private vehicles on the number of *(a)* vehicles that fail MOT tests, *(b)* collisions or incidents due to unsafe vehicles, *(c)* deaths and serious injuries through road accidents and *(d)* garages and MOT test stations; and if he will make a statement. [53201]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* I intend to review the MOT test scheme. I want to make sure that a review takes account of all the latest information available to us. To that end, we have recently published the results of independent research the Department commissioned to examine how vehicle defects affect accident rates, and to consider the potential road safety impact of changing the frequency of the MOT. The 'Effect of Vehicle Defects in Road Accidents' report can be found at:

http://www.trl.co.uk/library/reports_publications/latest_publications/

This research will be a useful addition to other information we will be gathering through the review process, including on the impacts on garages and MOT stations.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with representatives of the insurance industry the effects of the cost of car insurance for young drivers on the take-up of such insurance; and if he will make a statement. [55478]

Mike Penning: I am keen to work with the insurance industry to look at new approaches to reduce the impact of high insurance costs on young drivers and the Department for Transport is planning seminars with key stakeholders to discuss this.

Regional Airports

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions he has had the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the co-ordination of Government policy on regional airports; [54110]

(2) which regional airports he has visited to discuss co-ordination of Government policy since 12 May 2010; [54111]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on Government policy on regional airports. [54112]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport Ministers attend various meetings with Ministers in other Departments, the operators of regional airports and the Mayor of London, where they discuss a range of issues including Government policy on aviation.

The Government have announced their intention to develop a sustainable policy framework for UK aviation. On 30 March 2011, the Department for Transport published a scoping document that frames the debate on the future direction of aviation policy and asks a series of questions, including on regional connectivity and regional airports. The responses to the scoping document will help to inform the development of a draft framework, which we intend to publish for full public consultation in March 2012.

Shipping: EU Law

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will seek to amend Directive 96/71/EC in order to harmonise employment rights for EU-based seafarers with those of other EU citizens. [55823]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has no intention to seek an amendment to Directive 96/71/EC.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's policy is in respect of the exclusion of EU-based seafarers from the provisions of Directive 96/71/EC. [55824]

Mike Penning: The Government favours a level playing field across the EU for EU-based seafarers and is determined not to act in a way that compromises the UK shipping industry.

Shipping: Smoking

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether ships under foreign flags are legally entitled to permit smoking on the bridge whilst UK pilots are present and within UK territorial waters; and if he will make a statement. [55796]

Mike Penning: There is no UK law that prohibits smoking in these circumstances. The ship's Master has prime responsibility for the day-to-day running of their vessel.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken by the Child Support Agency and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to close cases was in each of the last five years. [54659]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Alan Hardy:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. As the Child Maintenance Commissioner is currently on annual leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average time taken by the Child Support Agency and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to close cases was in each of the last five years. [54659]

We attempted unsuccessfully to seek clarification of this question from your office. We have therefore interpreted this question as the average time between a liability ending on a case (liability cancelled/withdrawn) and the conditions for closure being met and the action to close the case being taken by the Agency. A cancelled/withdrawn event on a case is the first step of the closure process. This event occurs to stop an ongoing liability on a case. A case should not be fully closed until all outstanding arrears on a case are cleared (However historically there have been system problems that have allowed this in a few cases). If no outstanding arrears exist then a case can go through the whole closure process on the same day.

The information in the table below shows the median and mean times in each of the last five years. Robust information is not available to show the end-to-end closure process for cases administered on the CSCS computer system.

Time to close cases on CS2 computer system

Year of closure	*Median average to close case (Days)*	*Mean average to close case (Weeks)*
2006-07	1	28
2007-08	0	15
2008-09	1	26
2009-10	0	22
2010-11	0	34

Note:
Information only includes cases which are fully closed and is categorised by year of closure.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the outcome was of each child support case closed by the Child Support Agency and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in each of the last five years. [54660]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Alan Hardy:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. As the Child Maintenance Commissioner is currently on annual leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the outcome was of each child support case closed by the Child Support Agency and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in each of the last five years. [54660]

We attempted unsuccessfully to seek clarification of this question from your office. We have therefore interpreted this question as the reasons for cases administered on the CS2 computer system being cancelled/withdrawn or closed in each of the last five years. A cancelled/withdrawn event on a case is the first step of the closure process. This event occurs to stop an ongoing liability on a case. A case should not be fully closed until all outstanding arrears on a case are cleared. If no outstanding arrears exist then a case can go through the whole closure process on the same day.

The following tables show those that are closed prior to the initial calculation and those that are closed any time post the initial calculation which could be anything from days to years.

Reasons for case closure prior to calculation: Current scheme CS2 system

Reason for closure	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*
Total closures	201,300	189,300	135,000	39,300	25,100
Application not pursued by applicant	29,700	23,700	26,000	28,000	21,200
Application not eligible/no longer valid	10,400	10,300	6,600	1,100	1,300
Welfare issues/risk of harm	6,200	4,600	1,500	0	0
Reconciliation of NRP and PWC	5,900	4,300	1,500	300	200
Insufficient information	1,100	0	100	0	0
Application superseded by new claim	19,700	40,400	32,900	9,600	2,300
Casebuild terminated	107,000	94,700	52,300	0	0
Other/missing	21,400	11,400	14,100	200	100

Reasons for case closure following calculation: Current scheme CS2 system case previously paid

Reason for closure	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*
Total closures	16,300	21,700	34,300	36,200	31,300
Application not pursued by applicant	4,600	5,900	12,600	15,100	10,700
Application not eligible/no longer valid	6,500	9,500	14,000	15,000	15,900
Welfare issues/risk of harm	100	100	0	0	0
Reconciliation of NRP and PWC	3,500	4,000	4,600	4,100	3,100
Insufficient information	0	0	0	0	0
Application superseded by new claim	700	1,300	1,400	400	100
Casebuild terminated	0	0	0	0	0
Other/missing	800	1,000	1,700	1,600	1,500

Reasons for case closure following calculation: Current scheme CS2 system case not previously paid

Reason for closure	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*
Total closures	3,500	4,500	5,700	6,500	4,700
Application not pursued by applicant	1,000	1,300	2,100	3,200	2,400
Application not eligible/no longer valid	1,100	1,400	1,900	2,100	1,500
Welfare issues/risk of harm	0	0	0	0	0
Reconciliation of NRP and PWC	600	700	600	700	400
Insufficient information	0	0	0	0	0
Application superseded by new claim	400	900	600	200	100
Casebuild terminated	0	0	0	0	0
Other/missing	400	300	500	400	300

Notes:

1. Robust information is not available for cases closed on the CSCS computer system.
2. Figures include cases that have been cancelled/withdrawn or closed.
3. Closures as above, though completed by a case worker, can be initiated by either the CS2 system or the user themselves. Where case workers initiate closures, the closure reason is selected from a pre-defined list. As this is subjective, in some instances the selected reason may not reflect the actual reason for closure.
4. Closure reasons 'Casebuild Terminated' and 'Insufficient Information' should only be relevant to applications closed during the application process. All other closure reasons can be used prior or following a successful application.
5. Casebuild terminated refers to Jobcentre Plus applications received prior to the repeal of Section 6.
6. Figures rounded to 100.
7. Cases that have closed following calculation which have previously paid only includes cases which have had a payment or a maintenance direct arrangement recorded on the CS2 computer system. As this excludes payments made off system the number of cases may be under stated.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Maintenance

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division of the Northern Ireland Executive on the Government's proposals for child maintenance reform. [55714]

Maria Miller: Officials from the Department for Work and Pensions and the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission regularly meet colleagues from the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division and Department for Social Development to discuss child maintenance related issues including plans for reform.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division also participates in internal Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission meetings charged with preparing for the introduction of the reforms, so are integrated into the processes for implementing the Government's proposals.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for reform of the child maintenance system; and he will make a statement. [55727]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance Green Paper:

"Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance"

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/strengthening-families.pdf was published on 13 January 2011 and the consultation exercise ran until 7 April. This paper sets out the Government's proposals for the reform of the entire child maintenance system including the statutory maintenance scheme.

We are now considering the responses received and will issue a Government response to the consultation later this year.

Departmental Pay

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what additional pay he plans to provide to officials in his Department in the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2013 to reflect *(a)* seniority, *(b)* promotion and *(c)* performance. [55409]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is currently in the second year of a two-year pay freeze for all employees earning over £21,000 (full time equivalent). DWP will come out of the pay freeze for grades below senior civil service (SCS) in July 2012 and any additional pay in future years will be informed by Treasury guidance, affordability and be subject to negotiation.

SCS base pay is frozen until March 2013.

DWP pays officials a salary to reflect their position and responsibility within the organisation. It does not make additional payments according to seniority and has no plans to do so.

Where an individual is promoted they will receive an increase in their existing salary by 10% of their existing pay or the amount needed to take their salary to their new pay band minimum, whichever is the greater. This is in accordance with current departmental policy and there are no plans to change this.

The Department operates two performance related award schemes for employees below senior civil service (SCS)—an end of year performance award and an in-year award scheme.

The payment of in-year awards is discretionary and enables managers to reward and incentivise exceptional contribution to business performance. These have been in place since April 2003 and continue.

SCS performance payments are awarded as part of the annual review of SCS pay in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance. For 2011 the Cabinet Office has announced that only the top 25% of performers will receive performance-related payments. There are cash ceilings on these awards:

£10,000 for Deputy Directors (PB1)
£12,500 for Directors (PB2)
£15,000 for Directors General (PB3)
£17,500 for Permanent Secretaries

Disability Assessments

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has for processing disability assessments for young disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [50968]

Maria Miller: Over the past 18 months the Pension, Disability and Carers Service has tested a revised disability living allowance claim form for disabled children, improved impairment-specific medical guidance and revised processes. The claim form and guidance were considered a significant improvement by both customers and staff. Following the success of the test, PDCS now plans to adopt the approach nationally. Implementation will take place during the next few months.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for disability living allowance there have been in each year since 1992; how many such claims are in respect of children; what the cost was to his Department of such payments in each year; and if he will make a statement. [52190]

Maria Miller: The information is not available in the format requested.

We are unable to say how many claims for disability living allowance there have been for each year since 1992 as records only go back to April 2001. We are also unable to tell the right hon. Gentleman how many claims are in respect of children. The information on numbers of claims which is available is contained in the following table:

DLA claims

	Number
2001-02	408,000
2002-03	433,000
2003-04	442,000
2004-05	428,000
2005-06	431,000
2006-07	431,000
2007-08	448,000
2008-09	472,000
2009-10	483,000
2010-11	441,000
Total	4,417,000

Notes:
1. The figures include DLA new claims and claims made under the DLA Special Rules.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Source:
DLA Management Information Statistics.

Information on expenditure and caseload going back to 1992 is contained in the following tables. Some management information on numbers of claims is available but not by age group.

DLA expenditure, real terms 2011-12 prices

				£ million
	Children	*Working age*	*Pension age*	*Total*
1992-93	373	1,990	814	3,177
1993-94	510	2,722	1,113	4,345
1994-95	563	2,992	1,267	4,821
1995-96	656	3,535	1,512	5,703
1996-97	641	4,110	1,753	6,504
1997-98	689	4,357	1,935	6,981
1998-99	730	4,497	2,111	7,337
1999-2000	767	4,614	2,281	7,661
2000-01	811	4,796	2,468	8,074
2001-02	880	5,046	2,672	8,599
2002-03	965	5,197	2,766	8,928
2003-04	977	5,403	2,955	9,335
2004-05	1,009	5,544	3,125	9,678
2005-06	1,087	5,730	3,324	10,140
2006-07	1,107	5,832	3,483	10,422
2007-08	1,151	6,051	3,717	10,920

DLA expenditure, real terms 2011-12 prices

				£ million
	Children	*Working age*	*Pension age*	*Total*
2008-09	1,191	6,247	3,896	11,334
2009-10	1,260	6,650	4,223	12,133

Notes:
1. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
2. More detailed DWP benefit expenditure information can be found at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure
3. Expenditure for 2010-11 is not yet available.

Source:
DWP Statistical and accounting data

DLA caseloads

	Children	*Working age*	*Pension age*	*Total numbers*
August:				
1992(5)	95,600	557,100	290,600	1,049,100
1993(5)	125,500	793,700	354,100	1,279,800
1994	142,900	895,600	397,700	1,436,300
1995	161,800	1,020,100	445,800	1,627,800
1996	177,600	1,128,400	495,800	1,801,900
1997	196,100	1,236,200	550,500	1,982,800
1998	206,500	1,275,300	591,600	2,073,400
1999	215,400	1,301,000	628,900	2,145,300
2000	225,100	1,329,400	669,300	2,223,800
2001	238,000	1,388,300	711,700	2,337,900
2002	256,280	1,468,930	729,120	2,454,340
2003	268,330	1,532,040	733,170	2,573,540
2004	278,000	1,578,950	815,210	2,672,160
2005	285,010	1,609,360	855,110	2,749,480
2006	289,940	1,632,630	891,710	2,814,290
2007	298,420	1,672,780	938,780	2,909,980
2008	308,630	1,710,390	980,630	2,999,650
2009	320,140	1,756,730	1,019,430	3,096,300
2010	330,530	1,800,140	1,045,540	3,176,200

Notes:
1. Figures from August 1992 to August 2001 are taken from 5% sample data. They have been uprated to be consistent with WPLS data and are rounded to the nearest 100. Figures from August 2002 onwards are taken from WPLS 100% data and are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Constituencies used for August 2010 are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010. Prior to this the constituencies used are for May 2005.
4. These figures are published at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool
5. State pension age. The age at which women reach state pension age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. Figures from May 2010 onwards reflect this change.
6. Data extracts from earlier years (August 1992 and 1993) have a large number of cases with unrecorded ages. For August 1992 this accounts for 105,900 cases; for August 1993 this had dropped to 6,500 cases.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) and WPLS 5% sample data.

Employment and Support Allowance

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of claimants who will cease to receive contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) payments having received them for a year, but will not qualify for income-based ESA or any other income replacement benefits in April 2012. [37486]

Maria Miller: As part of the Welfare Reform Bill, we have set out our intention to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) and who are placed in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) from April 2012.

Current estimates suggest that of those affected by the proposal to time limit contributory ESA, it is expected that around 60% will be fully or partially compensated by income-related ESA. A further 20% are expected to be eligible for pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit or tax credits. The remaining 20% will not be eligible for income replacement benefits. However, people in this situation will generally either have a working partner or capital over £16,000 so will not be left without resources.

The estimates are subject to change as more information on customers in the Work Related Activity Group becomes available.

Employment and Support Allowance: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on measures to ensure that people with myalgic encephalomyelitis who are unable to work are not required to undertake unsuitable work or work-related activity. [56162]

Chris Grayling *[holding answer 17 May 2011]:* We recognise that ME has a wide spectrum of symptoms and can be a severely debilitating condition. The effects of ME on an individual may contribute to someone meeting the entitlement conditions for benefits.

When someone's health condition or disability, or the treatment they are receiving, makes it unreasonable to expect them to work we are committed to supporting them. The appropriate benefit in such cases is employment and support allowance (ESA). Entitlement to ESA is based on an individual's functional ability rather than the condition itself. Anyone claiming ESA will undergo the work capability assessment. Those with the most severe functional limitations will be placed in the Support Group, for which the undertaking of work related activity is not a requirement.

People with limited capability for work will be placed in the Work-Related Activity Group. These individuals may be required to undertake work-related activity, detailed in their action plan, which must be reasonable in their circumstances. If they feel the requirement on them is unreasonable, they will be able to request the activity is reconsidered. Advisers will not be able to direct people on ESA to seek, apply for or do work, nor will they be directed to undertake medical treatment.

Employment and Support Allowance: Visual Impairment

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the Employment and Support Allowance (Limited Capability for Work and Limited Capability for Work-related Activity) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 228, 2011), laid by his Department on 16 February 2011 on the numbers of blind and partially sighted individuals eligible for employment and support allowance. [56523]

Chris Grayling: In March 2010, the Department published a Department-led review of the work capability assessment. This made recommendations for improving the work capability assessment including making greater provision for individuals awaiting or in between courses of chemotherapy, those receiving residential treatment for drug or alcohol misuse and individuals with severe mental health conditions or communication difficulties. The review also made recommendations to take greater account of how an individual has adapted to their condition and to simplify some of the descriptors. These changes came into force on 28 March 2011.

The initial estimates predicted that overall the changes would result in a five percentage point increase in the proportion of new claims to employment and support allowance assessed as fit for work and a half a percentage point increase in the proportion assessed to be in the support group. More information can be found in the impact assessment that accompanied the regulations at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wca-ia-eia.pdf

The estimates were not broken down by particular health conditions so the expected effect of these changes on the eligibility of blind and partially sighted individuals is not available.

Data on the results of the work capability assessments completed since 28 March are not yet available, but the Department will continue to monitor the outcomes of work capability assessments.

Housing Benefit

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receiving *(a)* housing benefit but not council tax benefit, *(b)* council tax benefit but not housing benefit and *(c)* housing benefit and council tax benefit have benefit withdrawal rates of more than 40% against marginal income. [53416]

Steve Webb: The following table provides the number of working age customers who are employed and in households receiving HB and/or CTB with marginal deduction rates (MDRs) of more than 40%.

Benefit	*MDR > 40% (Number)*
HB only	400,000
CTB only	100,000
HB and CTB	200,000

Notes:

1. The numbers are rounded to the nearest 100,000.
2. The numbers are for 2008-09.
3. Due to the impact on the marginal deduction rates, these numbers exclude households with disabled adults or children, students and those who report self-employed income or who are not in employment.

Source:

The Department's Policy Simulation Model (version 10.2.0)

Housing Benefit: Disability

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled tenants in social housing which his Department's Equality Impact Assessment estimates will be affected by his proposed changes to eligibility for housing benefit in cases of under occupation are estimated to be in receipt of disability living allowance. [54190]

Steve Webb: Using the Department's Policy Simulation Model, we estimate that around 200,000 households are likely to be affected by the introduction of the size criteria in the social rented sector in 2013-14 where either the claimant or their partner are in receipt of disability living allowance.

However, there are certain households included within the 200,000 which may not be affected by the size criteria changes. These are households where the claimant is either entitled to an additional bedroom for a non-resident carer providing overnight care, or is living in certain types of supported accommodation.

For other households, local authorities can consider a discretionary housing payment based on the tenant's individual circumstances.

Notes:

1. The figures have been produced using the Policy Simulation Model, using 2008-09 reference data from the Family Resource Survey.
2. The figure has been rounded to the nearest 10,000.
3. The methodology is consistent with that used in the Equality Impact Assessment of the size criteria for claimants living in the social rented sector, published in March 2011.
4. Households are considered in receipt of disability living allowance where either the claimant or partner is in receipt of either the care or mobility component of disability living allowance regardless of the rate at which it is paid.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the factor by which the number of sanctions issued with respect to each working age benefit by each Jobcentre Plus office has changed in each quarter since the final quarter of 2009-10; [53574]

(2) how many sanctions were applied with respect to each working age benefit by each Jobcentre Plus office in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* the first three quarters of 2010-11. [53575]

Chris Grayling: Information by individual office is not available. The available information for jobseeker's allowance sanctions by Jobcentre Plus district has been placed in the Library. Sanctions data for income support and incapacity benefit sanctions are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information on employment support allowance sanctions will be available for the first time on 18 May 2011.

Poverty: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to address child poverty; and what arrangements he has made to assess progress towards the Government's objectives on child poverty. [48618]

Maria Miller: The Government's child poverty strategy was published on 5 April, and can be found at:

www.education.gov.uk/childpovertystrategy

The strategy embodies our determination to tackle child poverty, as set out in the coalition's Programme for Government. It sets out how our radical reform programme will help to transform people's lives and break cycles of disadvantage.

Our strategy focuses on the most vulnerable groups in society recognising that to help children who live in poverty we must reform welfare to make work pay and help those who are struggling to enter the labour market. We will give dignity to those who cannot be expected to work by bringing forward proposals to reform disability payments. For those who are able to work, we will provide targeted help to get the best outcomes for them and their families.

We will do all in our power to increase the life chances of children by supporting vulnerable families through expanding the network of health visitors, targeting child care for the most disadvantaged and investing in early intervention. By increasing standards in education, we will raise children's aspirations and narrow the gaps in attainment which play such a crucial role in defining children's future lives.

The strategy sets out a new, broader approach to measurement that goes beyond a narrow focus on income targets. We will develop better ways to measure poverty, including responding to Frank Field's recommendations on severe poverty and life chances indicators, to better capture the experience of living in poverty and reflect the Government's overarching commitment to increasing social mobility.

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of progress towards the four child poverty targets defined in the Child Poverty Act 2010; and if he will make a statement. [55259]

Maria Miller: The most recently published figures are set out in the following tables 1 and 2. They show that there are still 2.6 million children in relative poverty in the United Kingdom. The gap between the poorest and richest in our society has accelerated over the last five years despite £150 billion having been spent on tax credits alone since 2003-04 leaving Britain more divided than it has been in a generation because of a failure to tackle the root causes of poverty.

On 5 April, the Government published the first national child poverty strategy, 'A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives'. This strategy draws together policies from right across Government, as well as looking at the role of partners outside of national government, which will act together to tackle the causes and effects of child poverty. The strategy illustrates our radical new approach, including key structural reforms, to get to the root of tackling child poverty.

The Government remain committed to their goal of eradicating child poverty by 2020.

Table 1: The number and percentage of children living in (a) relative poverty (before housing costs) (b) absolute poverty (BHC) and (c) low income (BHC) and material deprivation in financial year 2009-10

	Number (million)	Percentage
(a) Relative poverty	2.6	20
(b) Absolute poverty	1.4	11
(c) Low income and material deprivation	2.0	16

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). These use disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. They cover the United Kingdom. The Households Below Average Income report can be found at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
4. Numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
5. These statistics are based on incomes before housing costs.
6. Each of the measures is defined as:

Relative poverty: children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income before housing costs

Absolute poverty: children living in households with less than 60% of 1998-99 median household income before housing costs held constant in real terms. The 2020-21 target will be measured against median income in 2010-11 held constant in real terms.

Low income and material deprivation: children living in households with less than 70% of contemporary median household income before housing costs who also experience material deprivation.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Table 2: The percentage of children living in persistent poverty (before housing costs) in the period 2005-08

	Percentage
Persistent poverty	12

Notes:
1. These statistics are taken from the DWP publication, 'Low Income Dynamics 1991-2008' based on data from the longitudinal British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) run by the University of Essex Institute for Social and Economic Research. They cover Great Britain. The Low Income Dynamics report can be found at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=lid
2. The table shows the percentage of children who are below the 60% of median income in at least three out of four years in a series of consecutive four year periods. This is the definition of persistent poverty used in the Child Poverty Act 2010.
3. Low Income Dynamics 1991-2008 does not provide an estimate of the number of children this is. The four targets in the Act are based on proportions.
4. The table presents results on the persistence of low income on a Before Housing Costs (BHC). However the housing costs in the BHPS differ from ones used in the Households Below Average Income publication. The BHPS defines housing costs as simply as weekly gross housing costs recorded on the BHPS. Rents include service and water charges, but these are excluded the housing costs of mortgage payers. In addition, BHPS includes both repayments and interest in the housing costs of the mortgage payers where as the HBAI exclude the repayments from housing costs.
5. Proportions of children living below 60% of median income in at least three out of four years have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Source:

Low Income Dynamics 1991-2008, DWP

Social Security Benefits: Autism

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to support *(a)* people diagnosed with autism and *(b)* their families in the delivery of its services. [47141]

Maria Miller: In the Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) we have existing specific learning provided by the Professionalism in Decision Making and Appeals (PIDMA) body within the former Disability and Carers Service (DCS). The course is Understanding Working Age and Child Customers which has a section on understanding the impact of a learning disability specifically covering Autistic spectrum disorders. This course is for all appropriate disability living allowance and attendance allowance decision making staff and covers all the issues to consider when deciding on entitlement to the benefit.

Additionally we are currently building a modified and updated version of that learning product for our local service customer liaison managers (CLMs) to reflect their newly widened responsibilities for dealing with visits, where required, to all of the Department's "vulnerable client groups". CLMs have received the existing PIDMA course above in the interim as part of the preparation for implementation of the new service. The new course is intended to build on that by providing learning more specifically tailored to visiting officers and part of a whole suite of new learning products for Local Service to be delivered from autumn 2011 onwards. Consequently, this learning does cover the issues visiting officers need to cover with the families of children with Autism. For example, topics included are:

Common:

Identifying needs that might arise from childhood impairments

Understanding developmental milestones in childhood and how these are taken into account in assessing needs arising from disability

Describing issues that might arise during visits to households with a disabled child

Providing guidance in the completion of the DLA claim pack

Specifically included in the course covering "Autistic Spectrum Disorders" are:

Parents' attitude/concerns/protection of their disabled child.

Discuss stereotyping—The living arrangements of the family what difference does this make?

The grief/loss cycle and its impact on parents/making a claim for DLA.

Tips for dealing with emotional customers

Empathy—What is it? How to use empathy

Local Service is the only direct customer facing service within PDCS. All other customer interaction is via correspondence, telephone or the internet with the sole exception of dealing with certain complaints, where face to face contact is required.

Disability living allowance is paid on the basis of a persons need for help with care and mobility. It is not, in general, paid in respect of a particular diagnosis such as Autism. decision makers from the Pension, Disability and Carers Service, make decisions based upon the information supplied by the customer, in many cases using supporting evidence, for example a factual report from the applicants GP, to determine whether the applicants care and/or mobility needs are sufficient to justify an award.

Jobcentre Plus is committed to providing individual tailored support to customers with autistic spectrum conditions using our services. We make required reasonable adjustments, including making use of the most suitable environment or premises for conducting interviews. Where individual customers ask us to we work with their families and representatives to facilitate access and participation with our services.

Where family members are carers Jobcentre Plus will help support them so they are not forced into hardship by their role. Our Care Partnership Managers help develop services for carers by working in partnership with relevant organisations, assessing demand for support and encouraging the development of local services such as replacement care. They ensure advisers have comprehensive up to date knowledge, skills and local information in order to provide effective support for carers who would like to combine work with their caring responsibilities.

We ensure our advisers are aware of the need to make suitable adjustments for people with autistic spectrum conditions. Our specialist disability employment advisers receive additional skills training including provision about autism.

Our Raising The Game On Disability Seminars also promote disability awareness and confidence and are available to all Jobcentre Plus staff. The seminars feature advice on working with customers with Autism.

In addition, if a person is in receipt of attendance allowance or disability living allowance care component at the middle or highest rate, a second person, who may or may not be a family member, may be able to claim carer's allowance provided they satisfy the conditions of entitlement.

In the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC) one of the Commission's values is being client focused. In order to provide a first class service, we need to ensure our services are accessible to clients. At the point that they first contact the Commission, clients are asked about their specific requirements to enable them to access Commission services.

This information is taken from our 'Single Equality Scheme 2010 to 2013' which is published on the Commission's website.

Social Security Benefits: Suicide

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* guidance has been issued and *(b)* training is provided to staff of his Department on dealing with claimants who make threats of suicide; and if he will make a statement. [55638]

Chris Grayling: Since the Department was formed, there has been a range of guidance, advice and training for staff on how to deal with customers who make threats of suicide or say they intend to harm themselves.

Prior to 2004, Jobcentre Plus staff were provided with written advice from DWP occupational psychologists.

In 2004 to 2005 guidance on how to manage customers who were indicating they may commit suicide was included in the Pathways to Work training for Jobcentre Plus staff.

In 2006 the DWP occupational psychologist team published a guide for staff on how to respond appropriately to customers who were intending to harm themselves.

In 2008 the Mental Health Coordinator role was introduced and "Introduction to Mental Illness" training was developed. This training, which is intended for all staff, includes a section on "responding to suicide declarations".

This guidance was revised in March 2011 to form a new DWP policy framework on "Managing customers' suicide and self harm declarations". The framework summarises the plans and procedures that must be in place, as well as current best practice, advice and guidelines. The new guidance was issued to all DWP staff on 30 March to ensure that all staff who work with customers are aware of how to respond appropriately in such situations.

Universal Credit

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what terms of reference his Department has agreed with the Social Security Advisory Committee on its review of passporting arrangements under universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [55982]

Chris Grayling: The Minister for Welfare Reform, my noble Friend Lord Freud of Eastry, has formally commissioned the Social Security Advisory Committee to carry out an independent review of passported benefits and the links with universal credit and we will produce a written ministerial statement with the terms of reference shortly.

TREASURY

Child Tax Credit: EU Nationals

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people from other EU countries who have made fraudulent claims for child tax credits in the latest period for which figures are available. [52911]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not keep records of the levels of error and fraud within working tax credit and child tax credit by country or nationality.

Commodity Markets

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential long-term effect on global commodity prices of trends in the economies of *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China. [56404]

Justine Greening: The effect on commodity prices of economic growth in emerging economies is widely acknowledged. The Chancellor has used analysis from leading economic organisations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) on this issue.

Corporation Tax

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the extent of avoidance of corporation tax by businesses trading in the UK. [50034]

Mr Gauke: Corporation tax is chargeable on the taxable profits of liable companies and organisations based in the UK and on the taxable profits arising from the UK activities of liable non UK based companies and organisations.

HMRC estimate that the annual corporation tax gap as a result of avoidance by businesses managed by HMRC's Large Business Service was £2.9 billion in 2008-09. This estimate was published in 'Measuring Tax Gaps 2010'

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

in September 2010. The Large Business Service is responsible for over 770 of the largest businesses that pay a significant proportion of the total business taxes and duties that HMRC collects.

In addition, HMRC published an illustrative estimate of £0.7 billion for the annual corporation tax gap in 2008-09 due to avoidance by large and complex businesses. These businesses are smaller than those managed by the Large Business Service but have annual turnover in excess of £30 million or have at least 250 employees.

An estimate of the corporation tax gap due to avoidance by small and medium-sized businesses has not been produced.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance; [55867]

(2) what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55890]

Justine Greening: The Fair Payment guidelines cover payments in respect of construction contracts. The Treasury does not currently have any contracts relevant for the purposes of the guidelines.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1391W, Members: correspondence, what the reasons were for the time taken to transfer the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North to the Department for Communities and Local Government. [56350]

Danny Alexander: The Treasury received the letter on 26 April and confirmed transfer on 11 May, within eight working days.

EU Budget

Graham Stringer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the future level of UK contributions to the EU budget of implementation of the European Commission's proposals for the future own resources of the EU. [56230]

Justine Greening: The European Commission has yet to issue formal proposals for the 2014-20 Multiannual Financial Framework. However, the UK Government are not in favour of the introduction of an EU tax directly to fund the EU budget. The UK continues to defend the principle of tax sovereignty.

Projections for UK's gross and net contributions to the EU budget are provided by the Office for Budget Responsibility in its Economic and Fiscal Outlook. The latest publication (March 2011) is available online at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/econ-fiscal-outlook-march.html

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Conor Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department assessed the merits of raising the top rate of income tax to a rate higher than 50 per cent. [53347]

Mr Gauke: In an age when businesses, capital and people are increasingly mobile, high tax rates send a negative signal to individuals and businesses who are looking to work and invest in the UK. The Government believe 50% rate would do lasting damage to the UK's economy if it were to become permanent.

That is why the Chancellor made clear in his Budget 2011 speech that the 50% rate is a temporary measure, and has asked HM Revenue and Customs to assess the revenue it raises when self assessment data for the 2010-11 tax year are available.

Conor Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department made of the revenue implications for the Exchequer of raising the top rate of income tax from 40 per cent. to *(a)* 41, *(b)* 42, *(c)* 43, *(d)* 44, *(e)* 45, *(f)* 46, *(g)* 47, *(h)* 48, *(i)* 49 and *(j)* 50 per cent. [53358]

Mr Gauke: The Exchequer costs of increasing the higher rate of tax for income tax can be approximated from Table 1.6 'Direct effects of illustrative tax changes', available on the HM Revenue and Custom's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.pdf

Conor Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what analysis his Department undertook of the potential revenues to be raised from the setting of the 50 per cent. top rate of income tax. [53359]

Mr Gauke: The estimated Exchequer yield from the additional rate of tax was published by the previous Government in Table A11 of March 2010 Budget, available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100407010852/
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/budget2010_annexa.pdf

Oil: Prices

Jesse Norman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to mitigate the effects on consumers of high oil prices. [56258]

Justine Greening: In recognition of high current oil prices, fuel duty was cut by 1p per litre on Budget day (23 March 2011). The planned 2011-12 increase will be deferred to 1 January 2012. In addition, the previous Government's fuel duty escalator has been abolished and replaced with a fair fuel stabiliser.

As a result of this measure, pump prices could be approximately 6.7p per litre lower than under the fuel duty escalator by 2015-16. This reduction in price will help mitigate the impact of high oil prices on consumers.

Revenue and Customs: Training

Mr Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to his Department was of training for HM Revenue and Customs staff in self-defence techniques in 2010-11; what type of training is provided; and who provides such training. [55464]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* Only a small proportion of HMRC officers receive physical self-defence training. The total number is approximately 1,250 individuals, some 2% of total HMRC staffing.

The vast majority of those who receive training do so because they are required to conduct arrests using the powers contained in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, or equivalent powers in Northern Ireland and Scotland. The remainder are trained because the risk assessment relating to their work indicates that such training is necessary for their own safety.

The Department currently has eight senior instructors, who are trained by the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) in the Association of Chief Police Officers-approved Personal Safety Techniques curriculum. This incurred a one-off cost of approximately £1,500 per senior instructor. By successfully completing this training, these officers are accredited "trainers of trainers", so they are able to train and accredit other HMRC staff to act as instructors. The Department currently has approximately 50 such instructors, a number of whom are currently under training.

All of the techniques taught are within the ACPO approved Personal Safety Training manual. However, only the techniques appropriate to HMRC officers' roles and powers are taught.

The costs to HMRC for this training fall under two general headings: payments to the NPIA for the training of senior instructors; and payment for the hire of suitable venues to carry out the training. In 2010-11, the Department paid approximately £6,000 to the NPIA for the training of four senior instructors, and £32,250 to various venues, mainly private gymnasiums.

Tax Avoidance

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to counter tax avoidance since May 2010; when his Department last discussed the Government's tax avoidance policies with *(a)* the HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* officials from the Public and Commercial Services Union; and how many meetings he has had since May 2010 with hon. and right hon. Members at which tax avoidance policy was discussed. [56245]

Mr Gauke: The Government are committed to tackling tax avoidance and since May 2010 has set out their strategic approach and explained action being taken to put it into practice in the Budget document "Tackling Tax Avoidance" available at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_taxavoidance.pdf

The Government have also shown their strong support for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in its operational work by providing investment of £917 million over the spending review period to tackle avoidance, evasion and criminal attack with the objective of bringing in around £7 billion per year in additional revenue by 2014-15.

HM Treasury Ministers frequently discuss tax policy issues with HMRC officials and work closely with HMRC on the issue of tax avoidance.

HM Treasury Ministers and officials also have meetings with a wide variety of organisations as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of such meetings.

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the tax gap; and when he next plans to make such an estimate. [56246]

Mr Gauke: HMRC's most recent estimate of the tax gap is £42 billion for 2008-09. This was published in 'Measuring Tax Gaps 2010' in September 2010

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

An estimate of the tax gap for 2009-10 will be published in 'Measuring Tax Gaps 2011' later this year.

Tax Collection

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department has given to HM Revenue and Customs on maximising the collection of tax revenues. [55977]

Mr Gauke: In my remit letter to HM Revenue and Customs for 2011-12, I set out the key priorities I expect the Department to focus on in the coming year. My letter makes clear that the highest of these priorities continues to be HMRC's role as the administrator and collector of tax revenues that fund the UK's public services and help reduce the deficit. This includes the Department's commitment to deliver an additional £7 billion per annum by 2014-15 in tax revenues from an increased focus on tackling non-compliance, evasion and avoidance.

HMRC's remit letter can be found on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/ls-remit-letter.pdf

Tax Yields: Financial Services

Mr Darling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the total tax take of *(a)* income and *(b)* corporation tax was received from the financial services industry in (i) 1979-80, (ii) 1987-88, (iii) 1992-93, (iv) 1997-98, (v) 2001-02, (vi) 2006-07 and (vii) 2009-10. [55812]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 16 May 2011]*: The information requested has been compiled from published sources and is set out in the tables.

Income tax

Figures are available for Pay-As-You-Earn Income Tax deducted from pay. The proportions shown in the following table are based on the Standard Industrial Classification. This has changed over time meaning that figures are not directly comparable across years.

Pay-As-You-Earn income tax deducted from pay

	Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) base used	*Financial sector share (percentage)*
1979-80	SIC 1968—Insurance, banking and finance	6.1
1987-88	SIC 1980—Banking finance and insurance	7.0
1992-93	SIC 1980	7.4
1997-98	SIC 2003—Financial intermediation	11.6
2001-02	SIC 2003	13.3
2006-07	SIC 2003	14.6
2009-10	—	n/a

n/a = Not yet available.

Note:

Excludes national insurance contributions and tax on pensions collected through PAYE. Also excludes income tax not collected through PAYE, for example collected through Self Assessment.

Sources:

Inland Revenue Statistics and HMRC Statistics (various editions)

Corporation tax

The following table shows the proportion of net receipts relating to financial sector both including and excluding life assurance. The breakdown is based on HMRC's Summary Trade Classification. An industry breakdown for corporation tax is not available for years prior to 2000-01.

Corporation tax net receipts

Percentage

	Proportion of net receipts from the financial sector	
	Excluding life assurance	*Including life assurance*
2001-02	25	33
2006-07	24	27

Corporation tax net receipts

Percentage

	Proportion of net receipts from the financial sector	
	Excluding life assurance	*Including life assurance*
2009-10[1]	13	16

[1] The figures for 2009-10 are subject to change as payments originally made in respect of a group of companies are re-allocated to individual companies within the group.

Note:

The table excludes advance corporation tax.

Source:

Calculated from figures in Table 11.1 of HMRC statistics:
http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.pdf

Taxation: Aviation

Graham Stringer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on proposals for an EU-wide flight tax to supplement the contributions of member states to the EU budget. [56217]

Justine Greening: The European Commission has yet to issue formal proposals for the 2014-20 Multiannual Financial Framework. However, the UK Government are not in favour of the introduction of an EU tax directly to fund the EU budget. The UK continues to defend the principle of tax sovereignty.

Taxation: Land

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 285W, on taxation: land what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on a land value tax since the Lyons Inquiry into Local Government; [56129]

(2) if he will make it his policy to introduce a land value tax; and if he will make a statement. [56130]

Mr Gauke: There has not been any further research since the Lyons Inquiry and there are no plans to implement a land value tax at this time. However, all taxes are kept under review as part of the Budget process.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Asset Protection Agency and *(c)* the UK Debt Management Office are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56442]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury has one member of staff, who spends 60% (full-time equivalent) of their time working as a trade union official. As fewer than five staff are employed to work as union officials it is not HM Treasury policy to provide salary information that could be attributed to an individual.

The Asset Protection Agency has no staff engaged as trade union representatives.

The UK Debt Management Office has no formal union recognition so no staff are employed on trade union activities.

Welfare Tax Credits: Expenditure

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to table 4.15 of the Economic and Fiscal Outlook of the Office for Budget Responsibilities, what expenditure on each tax credit scheme is represented by the figure given for overall tax credit expenditure. [51561]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* The information requested can be found in table 2.9 (rows 20 to 23) at the following:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/obr_fiscal_supplementary_tables1.xls

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Agricultural Products: EU External Trade

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* tariff and *(b)* non-tariff barriers discouraging agricultural imports to the EU from (i) Algeria, (ii) Morocco, (iii) Egypt and (iv) Tunisia he has identified. [56339]

Mr Davey: A range of tariff and non-tariff barriers apply to agricultural imports to the EU from Algeria, Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia. Tariff barriers are governed by bilateral Association Agreements between the EU and the respective countries, and vary considerably product-by-product and country-by-country. Limited agricultural tariffs remain for Egypt for example, which finalised a revised Association Agreement in 2010 whereas Algeria has yet to negotiate substantial revisions and so faces higher tariffs. Key non-tariff barriers remain for all countries including seasonal restrictions, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards, complex rules and regulations, and weak trade facilitation.

Arms Trade: Export Controls

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the next quarterly Country Pivot Report on strategic export controls. [56338]

Mr Prisk: The next quarterly Country Pivot Report on strategic export controls covering data for licences issued, refused and revoked is due to be published in week beginning 4 July. This report will cover data from January to March. Thereafter data are published with a three month time-lag i.e. data covering April to June are due to be published in October and so on.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55876]

Mr Davey: Between 1 May 2010 and 1 April the Department paid 61,837 invoices. Of these, 51 invoices were not paid within the 30 calendar day target and 3,013 invoices were not paid within the aim of paying 80% of all invoices in five working days.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55898]

Mr Davey: The Department works closely with its tier 1 suppliers to ensure that payments are passed through the supply chain by:

reviewing payment performance of tier one suppliers as part of the standard contract management process;

ensuring tier 1 suppliers include in the relevant contract a provision which requires the tier one supplier to pay any tier two suppliers within 30 days; and

enabling tier 2 suppliers to report any concerns they feel have not been adequately addressed direct to the Department or via the Office of Government Commerce's supplier feedback process.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55732]

Mr Davey: The Department is unable to state categorically the contracts or contractors which allow the storage of personal data overseas. Information and communications technology and estate contracts are managed centrally and, for those, we are not aware of any personal data being stored overseas. As all other contracts are not managed or held centrally, the detailed information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what additional pay he plans to provide to officials in his Department in the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2013 to reflect *(a)* seniority, *(b)* promotion and *(c)* performance. [55408]

Mr Davey: The Department entered the two-year civil service-wide pay freeze for staff outside the senior civil service (SCS) in 2010. However, this Department received legal advice that showed that one of the two pay systems in operation in the Department includes a contractual entitlement to progression. The Department is currently considering what will be paid to staff under these arrangements during 2011-12. The final settlement which will cover *(a)* seniority, *(b)* promotion and *(c)* performance is unknown yet as it subject to negotiations with our trade unions. Future pay proposals are subject to the Treasury's annual civil service pay guidance.

For the senior civil servants in this Department, the two-year pay freeze applies for 2011-12 and 2012-13 so they will not receive payments to reflect *(a)* seniority.

(b) The Department's SCS current pay on promotion policy is an uplift of base pay of 10% on promotion to the next higher pay band. This policy will continue for 2011-12 but future plans for 2012-13 have not yet been decided.

(c) The Department follows a framework for SCS pay set out by Cabinet Office. Non-consolidated performance payments are usually made to reflect retrospective performance in the previous appraisal year. This Department has not yet determined the level or distribution of these awards within this framework for 2011-12. Future SCS pay proposals are subject to annual Cabinet Office guidance.

Foreign Investment in UK

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress the Government has made in securing greater inward investment to *(a)* England and *(b)* the UK. [55132]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 12 May 2011]:* In the financial year 2009/10, the UK attracted a total of 1,619 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects, down by 7% on 2008/09. Within this total, 1,409 projects were in England, down by 9% on 2008/09. This performance is against the backdrop that global investment flows declined by approximately 40% in 2009/10.

Within the overall total of 1,619 FDI projects into the UK in 2009/10, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) assisted a total of 759 projects, confirmed as locating or expanding in the UK up by 26% on 2008/09.

Within the overall UK total of 759 UKTI assisted projects in 2009/10, 701 FDI projects were confirmed as locating or expanding in England also up by 26% on 2008/09.

The Inward Investment results for the UK for the financial year 2010/11 will be announced on 12 July 2011.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding he plans to allocate to advertising campaigns aimed at persuading students to take up places in higher education in 2011-12. [55921]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) considers it essential to ensure that prospective students and their families know about the full package of support available, to support access to higher education.

BIS has allocated the amount of £1.475 million to the recently launched information campaign aimed at potential students considering entering university from September 2012.

The Student Loan Company has been allocated some £1.3 million in the current financial year to provide information, advice and guidance aimed at informing and encouraging potential students to apply for the student support available from September.

Higher Education: Private Sector

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have met representatives of any company providing for-profit higher education in the United States since his appointment; whether they have met representatives of (i) Bridgepoint, (ii) Lincoln, (iii) Kaplan, (iv) Corinthian, (v) Apollo, (vi) Kaiser, (vii) Education Management Corporation, (viii) Rasmussen, (ix) Career Education Corporation and (x) Westwood in that period to discuss possible operations in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [56157]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 17 May 2011]:* I have met representatives of Apollo Group Inc. Separately, I have met representatives of Kaplan UK and Kaplan Europe but not their US parent corporation, Kaplan Inc. I have also met a representative of Education Management Corporation. I have not held official meetings with representatives of the other specific bodies referred to.

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and I meet regularly a wide range of providers of higher education in the UK and internationally as part of our efforts to encourage a more diverse and competitive higher education sector in England. The Department does not hold comprehensive information on whether higher education providers which, Ministers have met, are classed as for-profit or not-for-profit institutions. A quarterly-updated list of all BIS ministerial meetings with external organisations is also available at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/disclosure-ministerial-external-meetings-department-for-business

Higher Education: Procurement

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the implications for the university sector of the recent Supreme Court judgment in the case of Brent borough council and others *v.* Risk Management Partners Limited. [56153]

Mr Willetts: Universities are autonomous bodies and they will wish to consider the implications of this ruling for the ways they procure insurance and other services.

Industrial Disputes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of hours of work lost as a result of industrial action in each year since 1997. [55237]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate he has made of the number of hours of work lost as a result of industrial action in each year since 1997. [55237]

Monthly statistics on the number of labour disputes are available in table 20 of the Statistical Bulletin for Labour Market statistics at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

However, ONS does not produce figures on the number of working hours lost over this time period. The table below contains the latest, statistics available, which give the number of working days lost per year as a result of labour disputes since 1997.

	Total number of working days lost in year (Thousand)
1997	235
1998	282
1999	242
2000	499
2001	525
2002	1,323
2003	499
2004	905
2005	157
2006	755
2007	1,041
2008	759
2009	455
2010	365

Source:
ONS Labour Disputes Inquiry

Intellectual Property and Growth Review

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has received the report by Professor Ian Hargreaves on his Review of Intellectual Property and Growth; and when he plans to publish that report. [55706]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), received the report by Professor Ian Hargreaves on his Review of Intellectual Property and Growth.

I am pleased to confirm that the Secretary of State and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), published the Review of Intellectual Property and Growth yesterday; copies were placed in both Libraries of the House.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will schedule publication of his Department's response to the Review of Intellectual Property and Growth by Ian Hargreaves to enable scrutiny of the review by select committees and others to be taken into account in the response. [55830]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), published the Review of Intellectual Property and Growth ("the Hargreaves Review") yesterday; copies were placed in both Libraries of the House.

The Government will publish their substantive response before the parliamentary recess. That substantive response will reflect the need for any further consultation. We do not believe the timing of the Government's response will prevent any interested party, including Select Committees, from scrutinizing the Hargreaves Review itself.

New Businesses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage new business start-ups. [55220]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government are committed to creating the right long-term environment to help many more people start and grow their enterprise. That is why the Government have:

Introduced a package of reform to reduce rates of corporation tax, including cutting the small profits rate from 21% to 20% from 1 April 2011;

Introduced a regional national insurance holiday worth up to £50,000 for new businesses;

Increased the point at which employers start to pay national insurance contributions, benefiting employers by over £3 billion a year from 2011-12; and

Expanded the planned new enterprise allowance, to help the unemployed become self employed.

Furthermore, we are significantly changing the way help and advice is provided to business. This Department has engaged across Government and with the private sector to develop and communicate the specific support that will help start-ups, including:

A user friendly range of on-line tools, audio-visual training and checklists to support people wanting to start-up, tested by business customers and building on the current businesslink.gov.uk offerings, including key elements of starting up such as business planning, as well as tax calculators and other useful guides. This will be available from November 2011;

A new national contact centre for those who cannot access the information they need on the website also available from November;

A network of up to 40,000 experienced business mentors offering practical advice to existing businesses and people who want to start a business; and

Establishing Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) that will develop links to existing private sector provision for business support, including start-ups, and to encourage their use. In the Budget 2011 it was also announced that 21 enterprise zones will be created across England and they will seek to stimulate selected areas of the country through tax breaks, reduced planning restrictions and "superfast" broadband.

Overseas Students

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support universities to attract students from *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China. [56340]

Mr Willetts: Universities in the UK are autonomous and develop their own strategies for competing in the global student market, and are extremely competent at doing so. The world-class reputation that the higher education (HE) sector enjoys means that the UK attracts more students to study here than any country other than the US. The Government works with and supports the British Council overseas to promote the UK as a study destination.

The Department is working closely with other Whitehall Departments and partner organisations, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to develop a strategic approach to international education and skills. The International Education and Advisory Forum, which I chair, brings together key players in this arena. Through this forum, education and skills action plans will be developed for priority-countries, such as Brazil, Russia, India and China, based on an analysis of the commercial, educational, and political opportunities each present.

Globalisation of higher education, including the importance of international student recruitment, is one of the areas to be covered in the forthcoming HE White Paper.

Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and Ofsted to commence the access to education accreditation process for those higher education institutions with highly trusted status whose intake of students for September 2011 has been frozen because of the non-availability of such accreditation in the current academic year. [56410]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office, Department for Business Innovation and Skills and Department for Education are working with the relevant inspection and review bodies to finalise arrangements for the new educational accreditation regime, and will announce further details shortly.

Post Offices

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many sub-post offices have changed ownership since May 2010; [56464]

(2) how many post offices have closed since May 2010. [56465]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of the Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future availability of banking facilities via the Post Office network. [56463]

Mr Davey: We set out our policy on the future of the Post Office network in our statement "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age", published on 9 November 2010. In this statement we were clear that we will support the Post Office as it expands further into financial services through the provision of new products and as it aims to increase access to UK current accounts through the Post Office network.

Postal Services

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of access points for postal services required to meet the needs of the public. [56524]

Mr Davey: Under the Postal Services Bill, Ofcom will have a duty to carry out their functions in a way that they consider will secure the provision of sufficient access points to meet the reasonable needs of users. It is expected that in fulfilling that duty, Ofcom will conduct thorough research and analysis, and will consult users in order to take their views into account. Any assessment by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills will be informed by Ofcom's analysis.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in which *(a)* regional and *(b)* local enterprise partnership area each successful bid approved in the first round of the Regional Growth Fund is based. [54051]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* Successful bids from Round 1 of the RGF have been announced. 50 bids have been given conditional allocations, subject to due diligence, totalling just over £450 million; 27,000 direct jobs created and safeguarded; and 100,000 indirect jobs.

The following list gives details a more detailed breakdown:

East Midlands and South East Midlands:

South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP): one successful bid

Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire LEP: one successful bid

Leicester and Leicestershire LEP: one successful bid

North East:

North Eastern LEP: 11 successful bids

Tees Valley LEP: five successful bids

North West:

Cheshire and Warrington LEP: one successful bid

Greater Manchester LEP: four successful bids

Liverpool City Region LEP: four successful bids

South East and East of England:

Kent, Greater Essex and East Sussex LEP: one successful bid

South West:

Heart of the South West LEP: two successful bids

West of England LEP: one successful bid

One successful bid not in a LEP

West Midlands:

Coventry and Warwickshire LEP: two successful bids

Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP: one successful bid

Stoke and Staffordshire LEP: two successful bids

Worcestershire LEP: one successful bid

Yorkshire and Humber:

Leeds City Region LEP: five successful bids

Sheffield City Region LEP: one successful bid

One successful bid not in a LEP

Other bids—national:

Two national bids not in a single LEP

Total = 50 bids.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Young People

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 417W, on armed forces: young people, if he will write to hon. Members outlining the guidelines and procedures specifically covering the care and welfare of those under the age of 18 in the armed forces. [56532]

Nick Harvey: The document entitled, "Policy on the Care of Service Personnel under the Age of 18", is available in the Library of the House (Reference DEP 2009-0737).

EU Defence Policy

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the EU Military Committee meeting with Chiefs of Defence from EU member states on 3 May 2011; what framework is in place for the pooling and sharing of military resources across the EU; what access to UK military resources he has given to other EU countries; and if he will make a statement. [55516]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The EU Military Committee meeting with Chiefs of Defence on 3 May 2011 covered two main topics: capabilities and operations. The session on capabilities focused wholly on pooling and sharing of military capabilities, where member states showed broad support for the initiative. Chiefs of Defence also discussed current operations.

Although work is under way in the EU and NATO to improve the transparency of current pooling and sharing activities among member states and to generate opportunities for the pooling and sharing of military capabilities in the future, there is no specific framework in place in Europe for the pooling and sharing of military resources. Decisions concerning military capabilities to be pooled and shared are subject to, and potentially constrained by, matters of national sovereignty. Although the work is being co-ordinated by these institutions, we are clear that the initiative must be member state driven, and conducted voluntarily.

As at 12 May 2011, the UK contributes to the following military Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions: Operation ALTHEA (peacekeeping in Bosnia), Operation ATALANTA (counter-piracy off Somalia) and EUTM Somalia (training Somali security forces in Uganda).

Defence and Diplomacy

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the relative merits of *(a)* hard and *(b)* soft power. [56348]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review took decisions on defence, security, intelligence, resilience, development and foreign affairs capabilities in the round. Since this Government took office the Ministry of Defence has reinvigorated its focus on the role which defence diplomacy can play in promoting the United Kingdom's interests.

Libya; Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many missions the *(a)* Nimrod R1, *(b)* Sentinel R1, *(c)* VC-10 and *(d)* C-130 have flown in Operation Ellamy. [53570]

Dr Fox: Up to 8 May 2011 the UK has flown the following sorties in support of Operation Ellamy:

Aircraft type	*Number of sorties*[1]
VC10	110
C130	15
Nimrod	20
Sentinel	50

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest five.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many sorties have been flown over Libya by UK armed forces; and in how many such sorties weapons have been deployed. [54517]

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many sorties the *(a)* GR4 Tornado and *(b)* Typhoon has flown in Operation Ellamy; what type of mission was flown in each case; and how many weapons of each type were released; [53569]

(2) how many dual mode Brimstone missiles have been used by UK forces in Operation Ellamy to date. [53594]

Dr Fox: Up to 8 May 2011 the UK has flown about 300 GR4 Tornado and 140 Typhoon sorties as part of Operation Ellamy. Both aircraft types have conducted missions to protect civilians in support of UN Security Council Resolution 1973, and the Typhoons have also conducted missions in support of no-fly zone enforcement.

In all, approximately 240 weapons have been fired by these aircraft during these missions. These were a combination of Dual Mode Seeker Brimstone and Storm Shadow missiles, Enhanced Paveway II and Paveway IV Precision Guided Munitions. I am unable to provide a breakdown of these figures for reasons of operational security.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 418W, on Libya: armed conflict, whether officials of his Department have had discussions with their counterparts in *(a)* the US Administration and *(b)* Governments of other countries that are part of the coalition for military action in Libya on policy on the use of depleted uranium weapons; whether his Department has received any reports on the use of depleted uranium weapons by coalition partners; and if he will make a statement. [55567]

Nick Harvey: Defence officials routinely undertake policy discussions with their counterparts in foreign Governments across a full range of issues, including matters relating to Libya. It would not be appropriate to disclose details of these discussions or any official reporting received from Governments in the coalition for military action in Libya.

As I have stated previously, it is a matter for other nations to decide for themselves what weapons they deploy. The UK is not itself using depleted uranium weapons in Libya.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress he has made towards achieving the non-frontline savings identified in the Strategic Defence and Security Review; and if he will make a statement. [50294]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 4 April 2011]:* The outcomes of the Strategic Defence and Security Review including the actions required to achieve savings of £4.3 billion in the non-frontline formed the basis of the Department's annual Planning Round (PR) 11 and PR 12, which is under way. As part of this process we keep a range of options under consideration regarding future spending.

USA: Military Bases

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the 1973 Cost Sharing Agreement with the US concerning US military bases in Great Britain. [55527]

Nick Harvey: I am withholding the 1973 UK/US Cost Sharing Arrangement concerning US military bases in the UK, as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and another state.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56066]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) UK mobile telephones and mobile data services are provided by Vodafone. Overseas offices have devolved responsibility for purchasing mobile telephones and mobile data services. Collating the information on the providers used by the Department's overseas offices would incur disproportionate cost.

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which civil society organisations in Ethiopia his Department consulted in the course of its bilateral aid review; and if he will make a statement. [56471]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government work with a wide range of local and international civil society organisations (CSOs) in Ethiopia, including Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children and WaterAid. We routinely engage with these partners to share information and to discuss current issues and programmes. During the Bilateral Aid Review, we used this ongoing dialogue to discuss DFID's evolving priorities and programme and invited CSOs to discuss these at a more detailed, technical level.

As our programme in Ethiopia evolves, DFID will forge new partnerships with the private sector and others, and our existing partnerships with CSOs will need to become more focused on selected issues of mutual interest and achieving results.

Overseas Aid

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he takes to ensure that his Department's bilateral aid is used for the purposes for which it is intended. [55946]

Mr Duncan: The Government have rigorous systems and procedures to ensure effective financial oversight of its funding and to ensure that aid achieves maximum value for money and delivers results for its intended recipients.

We subject all UK aid to rigorous financial auditing, monitoring and evaluation processes. For all grants provided by the Department for International Development (DFID), we require evidence about the use of funds from the partners' own audited accounts, or other audited arrangements as agreed. DFID requirements are built into the funding agreement which details: the annual audit requirements; the monitoring and review requirements; and the option for the Government to take any reasonable and necessary steps to address the situation in the event that there is any significant failure in the commitments set out in the agreement.

For all new UK aid programmes approved from January this year, the Government have also modified the way DFID programmes are designed so that they are based on rigorous evidence of what works and what maximises value for money and results through the introduction of a business case model. All DFID projects are scored annually against expected results. Under the new Aid Transparency Guarantee we will ensure business cases for all projects as well as annual reviews and project completion reports are published on the DFID website so they can be scrutinised by the British taxpayer.

The National Audit Office audits DFID's accounts and scrutinises our systems for ensuring effective management and proper use of the development budget. We have also created a new Independent Commission for Aid Impact, the first of its kind, which is able to scrutinise any area of UK bilateral and multilateral aid spending.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Oil Refineries

21. **Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to provide incentives for investment in oil refineries. [56273]

Charles Hendry: The Government recognise the important role of the refining sector in the UK's economy and seek to ensure that the right conditions exist to attract and retain investment. We welcome the recent investment announcements for Grangemouth, Pembroke and Stanlow refineries which show the long-term vitality of the sector. We work closely with the industry and its representatives to understand the impact of policy on the sector.

Offshore Wind Capacity

23. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what target he has set for the amount of electricity to be generated by offshore wind capacity by 2020. [56275]

Charles Hendry: The UK National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) published in July 2010 set out an illustrative breakdown of the final shares of different types of renewables technology in 2020. The precise breakdown of the 2020 renewable energy target between technologies will depend on how investors respond to the support we have put in place.

Carbon Emissions

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the Carbon Trust's analysis of trends in total UK emissions including imports up to the 2020s; if he will request the Committee on Climate Change to investigate the issue of outsourced emissions; and what action his Department is taking to address such emissions. [56303]

Gregory Barker: DECC recognise the importance of the impact on emissions of the whole life cycle of the products we consume, and the increasingly global nature of supply chains means that there is a more and more complex picture of where in the life history of a product the emissions actually arise. The Government's Sustainable Consumption Programme is working to identify and help reduce the lifecycle carbon and other environmental impacts that are associated with UK consumption, wherever in the world those impacts occur.

However, the approach agreed internationally—under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto protocol—is for countries to work towards emission reduction targets related to direct emissions within their territories.

DECC is pushing strongly at the international level for an ambitious global agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which will ensure that action is taken to tackle climate change regardless of where products are produced.

The work programme for the Committee on Climate Change is planned and managed through an annual business planning process agreed between the Government, devolved Administrations and the CCC. The Government have no immediate plans to ask the CCC to undertake work on embedded emissions.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the contribution to global carbon emissions attributable to *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China (i) in 1990, (ii) on the most recent date for which figures are available and (iii) in 2020. [56402]

Gregory Barker: There are a number of sources of information on greenhouse gas emissions in Brazil, Russia, India and China. Official inventory figures submitted to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat are available for 1990 emissions in Brazil and Russia, and also for 2005 and 2008 respectively. The World Resources Institute Climate Analysis Indicators Tool database may be used for estimated totals for China and India in 1990 and provides an estimate for China in 2005. India's Ministry of Environment and Forests has provided national emissions inventory figures for 2007.

With regard to projections for 2020, the 2010 UNEP Emissions Gap Report provides median 2020 projections for these and other countries across 13 models.

The information from these sources is summarised in the following tables:

(i) 1990 Greenhouse gas emissions

Country	*Total greenhouse gas emissions (excluding LULUCF) ($MtCO_2e$)*	*Total greenhouse gas emissions (including LULUCF) ($MtCO_2e$)*	*Data source*
Brazil	600	1,400	UNFCCC
China	3,600	3,800	CAIT
India	1,100	N/A	CAIT
Russian Federation	3,300	3,400	UNFCCC

(ii) Recent emissions data

Country	*Total greenhouse gas emissions (excluding LULUCF) ($MtCO_2e$)*	*Total greenhouse gas emissions (including LULUCF) ($MtCO_2e$)*	*Data source*	*Year*
Brazil	900	2,200	UNFCCC	2005
China	7,200	7,200	CAIT	2005
India	1,900	1,250	India Environment Ministry	2007
Russian Federation	2,200	1,600	UNFCCC	2008

Note:
Figures for emissions from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) data are not available for India in 1990.
Data sources for (i) and (ii):
UNFCCC national communications:
http://unfccc.int/ghg_data/items/3800.php
World Resources Institute (WRI) Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (CAIT):
http://cait.wri.org
India's Ministry of Environment and Forests: Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2007:
http://moef.nic.in/downloads/public-information/Report_INCCA.pdf

(iii) 2020 projections

	Business as usual	*Assuming Copenhagen Accord pledges are met in full*
Country	*Total greenhouse gas emissions (including LULUCF) ($MtCO_2e$)*	*Total greenhouse gas emissions (including LULUCF) ($MtCO_2e$)*
Brazil	[1]2,700	1,700
China	12,600	11,500
India	3,400	[2]2,800
Russian Federation	2,500	2,500

[1] In December 2010 Brazil published the BAU they intend to use as the basis of their pledge (Presidential Decree No. 7390), which is 3,200 MtC02e in 2020.

[2] This assumes that India achieves its National Action Plan on Climate Change.

Data sources for (iii):
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): The Emissions Gap Report:
http://www.unep.org/publications/ebooks/emissionsgapreport/
Note that these figures are the median 2020 projections across the 13 models used in this report.
Copenhagen Accord country mitigation pledges are listed on the UNFCCC website:
http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_15/copenhagen_accord/items/5262.php

Committee on Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the Fourth Report of the Committee on Climate Change; and if he will make a statement. [56571]

Gregory Barker: As the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), announced on 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 176-77, and in line with the recommendations of the Committee on Climate Change, the Government have proposed setting a legally binding target for greenhouse gas emissions for the fourth Carbon Budget period of 2023 to 2027 of 1950 $MtCO_2e$—a 50% reduction on 1990 levels. In agreeing with the Committee's recommendations the Government are delivering on their promise to be the greenest Government ever.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff of his Department are entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56440]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) follows the ACAS Code of Practice "Time off for Trades Union Duties and Activities".

During 2010-11 one member of DECC staff was entitled to work as a full-time trade union representative and 12 members of staff were entitled to work as part-time trade union representatives.

Eight of the 13 representatives, have a full-time equivalent salary of more than £25,900 per annum.

The cost of employing such staff on such duties between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011 was around £46,000.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 23 May 2011

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Internet

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what historical material the House of Commons Commission is planning to make available on the parliamentary *(a)* intranet and *(b)* website in the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [56609]

John Thurso: There is currently a project under way to digitise House of Commons Journals between the years 1836 and 1997. Scanning is in progress. Publishing to the website is yet to be scheduled and resourced.

There are plans to put up new content on the Living Heritage section of the parliamentary website on the themes of Parliament and Belief, Parliament and Empire, and Parliament and Ireland in the financial year 2011-12.

Portcullis House: Clocks

Mr Ellwood: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, if the House of Commons Commission will arrange to place a large clock in the Atrium of Portcullis House. [57179]

John Thurso: Clocks are already provided on the TV screens around the perimeter of the Atrium of Portcullis House but the Department of Facilities has been asked to consider what an additional clock would cost and whether such expenditure could be justified.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department plans to take to assess the contribution to the economy of arts and culture. [56344]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* The Department, alongside Arts Council England, is currently undertaking a project aimed at providing a framework for quantifying the economic contribution of the Department's sectors, including the arts and cultural sector. The project is expected to include an analysis of our sectors and guidance on conducting and commissioning analysis in this area. The Department also publishes economic estimates of the creative industries for turnover, employment, number of businesses and exports, which includes estimates for the music, visual and performing arts, arts and antiques and architecture sectors. The latest release can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7634.aspx

The estimates are updated annually and the next release is scheduled for autumn of this year.

Bingo

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) when he plans to announce changes to regulations on the use of B3 machines in bingo clubs; [55979]

(2) what his policy is on measures to support the bingo industry; and if he will make a statement. [55981]

John Penrose: The Government are looking to support all sectors of the gambling industry, including bingo, through identifying and reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens. That is why I have been reviewing the maximum stake limit and premises entitlements for category B3 gaming machines and I hope to make an announcement soon on the outcome of that review.

Bingo: Taxation

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on bingo taxation. [55980]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport Ministers and officials have regular discussions with their counterparts at Her Majesty's Treasury on a range of issues which affect our sectors. Treasury colleagues are well aware of the concerns that have been raised with them by the bingo industry.

Bowling

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will have discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the adequacy of planning regulations in protecting crown green and lawn bowling facilities. [56624]

Hugh Robertson: I have regular discussions with colleagues. The Department for Communities and Local Government expects to consult on a new National Planning Policy Framework in July.

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the adequacy of the provision of crown green and lawn bowling facilities in relation to levels of demand in England. [56625]

Hugh Robertson: It is for local councils to assess the need for such facilities in their areas.

Broadband

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what objectives have been set which define his aim to ensure that the UK has the best superfast broadband in Europe by the end of the present Parliament. [56358]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* To determine whether the UK has the best superfast broadband network in Europe, we will be publishing a balanced scorecard which will include speed, price, choice and coverage, as well as take up. In addition, on 12 May, I announced the ambition that 90% of the UK population should have access to a superfast broadband connection by 2015, with the rest having access to a service of at least 2 Mbps.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of households in each parliamentary constituency which have access to broadband services and do not subscribe to them; [56826]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of households in each parliamentary constituency which do not have access to broadband services; [56827]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of households in each parliamentary constituency with access to broadband services of *(a)* 2 mbps or fewer and *(b)* more than 2 Mbps. [56828]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport have not made an estimate of the number of households that do not subscribe to broadband, but use independent analysis for reference purposes.

Broadband Delivery UK has estimated that the total number of premises with a sub 2 Mbps connection in all UK constituencies is 1.58 million and the total number of premises with above 2 Mbps is 25.8 million.

The Ofcom Communications Market Report 2010 (August) contains further data on broadband accessibility in the UK. It can be found using the link:

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/market-data/communications-market-reports/

In addition, the Office for National Statistics published their 'Internet Access Quarterly Update' on 18 May 2011 which provides data on the number of people who have "never used" the internet, broken down by geographical region. The report can be found using the link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/internet-access-q1-2011.pdf

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will request that Ofcom investigate BT's pricing of ducts and poles in deployment of superfast broadband to third party providers. [56954]

Mr Vaizey: Industry consultation on the draft reference offers for access to BT's ducts and poles, which were published in January 2011, is ongoing. If commercial terms cannot be agreed by the end of the consultation period, it will be for Ofcom, who have the powers to investigate, to determine whether to intervene to set prices.

Broadband: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 611W, on broadband: public expenditure, what assessment he has made of the effect on the pilot project in Scotland of restrictions on the use of ducts and poles for *(a)* fixed wireless access broadband, *(b)* mobile broadband, *(c)* satellite, *(d)* leased lines and *(e)* single or one-off connections. [56514]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has not made any assessment of the restrictions in regard to any of the points raised. Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) are responsible for this aspect of the project; however we are keen to learn from their experiences in due course.

BSkyB: News Corporation

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the reasons are for the time taken to announce his decision on the proposed News Corporation acquisition of BSkyB. [57206]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I am currently considering all the responses to the consultation and will make my decision, followed by a statement to this House, as soon as I am able.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on what date special advisers in his Department last used the Government car pool to travel in an official capacity; and on how many occasions a special adviser in his Department has travelled to their home address using the Government car pool since May 2010. [56084]

John Penrose: The Department does not offer the use of Government pool cars to special advisers.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56100]

John Penrose: The following amount have been spent by the Department on current special advisers' travel from 1 May 2010 to 31 March 2011:

Form of transport	*Cost (£)*
Private hire car (including taxi)	436.65
Train	426.60
Commercial flights	817.05
Total	1,680.30

The Department does not offer the use of Government pool cars or private aircraft to special advisers. No cost has been incurred from travel on buses.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much has been spent on travel in respect of *(a)* each of his Department's Executive agencies and *(b)* the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. [56187]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has only one Executive agency—the Royal Parks (TRP). The agency's accounting system does not separate travel and subsistence. The figure for spend since May 2010 is as follows:

(a) TRP has spent £14,133.27 on travel and subsistence since May 2010;

(b) There have been no travel and subsistence claims from the chief executive of TRP during this period.

Film

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 635W, on UK Film Council, when he plans to launch a review of film policy; and who he expects to lead that review. [56343]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 19 May 2011]*: Details of the film policy review and those undertaking it will be announced shortly.

Gambling

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 741W, on gambling, what representations he has received from external interest groups on the outcomes of the 2010 Gambling Prevalence Survey since 1 March 2011. [56368]

John Penrose: According to our records, since 1 March 2011, the Department has received a written representation from one external interest group, the Association of British Bookmakers, about the 2010 Gambling Prevalence Survey. In addition, the results of the Prevalence Survey have been discussed as part of my officials' regular meetings with trade bodies and with faith and community groups.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 741W, on gambling, whether he has made an assessment of the outcomes of the Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010 including *(a)* recent trends in the number of problem gamblers and *(b)* the use of B2 terminals in betting shops. [56369]

John Penrose: There has been a slight increase in the absolute levels of problem gambling to 0.9% of the population—and while it is not possible to say whether this represents an upward trend or a temporary fluctuation, we cannot be complacent. But we must use caution when looking at problem gambling rates for individual activities; problem gamblers tend to gamble using many activities and the Prevalence Survey does not provide evidence or proof about which activities cause or exacerbate problem gambling. We will be watching closely the outcome of the current machines research which will address these questions, among other things.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1086W, on gambling, what progress has been made on the *(a)* form, *(b)* funding and *(c)* timing of the next Gambling Prevalence Survey. [56370]

John Penrose: We continue to work closely with the Gambling Commission on the future funding of prevalence surveys of this kind and the best ways in which to gather prevalence data. The Gambling Commission will announce the future arrangements in due course. The Prevalence Study is not the only research that examines this area and I am pleased that the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board's research programme continues to focus on projects that will, over time, help target regulatory controls, education and treatment based on a robust evidence base. We need to know much more about problem gambling if we are to target future regulation, enforcement and prevention effectively. Continued industry funding for research, education and treatment is fundamental to this.

Tote: North-west England

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effects of any decision on the future of the Tote on levels of employment in the North West. [56048]

John Penrose: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, meets regularly with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and they discuss a variety of issues.

Tote: Wigan

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the application of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff based in Wigan employed by the Tote following its sale. [56639]

John Penrose: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, has considered the application of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) to Tote staff. Whether TUPE applies depends on the legal employer of the employee in question. For these purposes, Tote Group employees fall into two groups: (i) employees of the Horserace Totalisator Board; and (ii) employees of the Horserace Totalisator Board's subsidiaries.

For employees employed by the Horserace Totalisator Board, TUPE will apply, together with the Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004, to transfer them to the successor company.

For employees employed by subsidiaries of the Horserace Totalisator Board, such as Tote Credit Ltd and Tote Bookmakers Ltd, TUPE will not be needed. The reason for this is that their legal employer will not change at all—it will move from the Horserace Totalisator Board to the successor company along with the staff—so their existing employment contracts will be unaffected.

Intellectual Property

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to respond to the Hargreaves review of intellectual property. [57205]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills published 'Digital Opportunity: A Review of Intellectual Property and Growth', an independent report by Professor Ian

Hargreaves, on 18 May 2011. The Government will publish their substantive response before the summer parliamentary recess.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 22 March and 26 April 2011 regarding a constituent, Mr Lanasis. [56645]

John Penrose: The letter from the hon. Member dated 22 March 2011 was transferred to the Ministry of Justice for a reply as the subject raised by the constituent falls under their areas of responsibility.

The Department has conducted a thorough check and has no record of receiving a letter from the hon. Member dated 26 April 2011. If the hon. Member could submit a copy of his letter I will ensure a timely response is sent. However, if this letter was related to the same issues raised in the letter of 22 March I recommend the hon. Member write directly to the Ministry of Justice.

Ofcom: Wi-Fi

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what ongoing assessment his Department is making of the propriety of the consultation by Ofcom on implementing geolocation in light of the recent move to a commercial mobile wireless data service provider of Ofcom's former Director of Technology Resources; and if he will make a statement; [56823]

(2) if he will review the future programme of Ofcom's consultation on implementing geolocation in light of the recent move of Ofcom's Director of Technology Resources to Neul Limited; and if he will make a statement. [56824]

Mr Vaizey: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is directly accountable to Parliament. I am not aware of any reason why it would be appropriate to review the future programme, or make an ongoing assessment of propriety of Ofcom's consultation on implementing geolocation.

Radio Frequencies

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many white space devices he expects to be in operation in 2020; and if he will make a statement. [56822]

Mr Vaizey: Given that we are in the very early stages in the development of the white space technology market I am not able to provide an accurate estimate of how many devices we expect to be used in the white spaces. A lot will depend on how the market develops and whether innovative or attractive services are developed for the technology. However experience of other technologies used for similar applications within unlicensed spectrum may provide an example. The nearest analogy to unlicensed white space devices would be Wi-Fi where there are over 4 million hot spots in the UK and many more customer devices that connect to them.

Sports: Reading

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what financial assistance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Lottery has given to (i) amateur and (ii) professional sports clubs in Reading West constituency since 2010. [57024]

Hugh Robertson: The information requested is not held by this Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of Sport England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Sport England to write direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Video Games

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on implementation of the recommendations of the Livingstone-Hope skills review of video games and visual effects. [56345]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* The Government are currently considering the report and, as the Plan for Growth confirms, we will issue a formal response in the summer. We welcome the industry's creation of a steering committee which will meet regularly to drive forward their response to the report's recommendations. In addition we expect a ministerial engagement group to progress the Government's follow-up to the report, liaising closely with the industry-led activity.

TREASURY

Bank Cards: Young People

Claire Perry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the use of stored value cards by persons under the age of 18 years. [57310]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Bank Services

David Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Financial Service Authority has taken to regulate *(a)* the speed of and *(b)* charges for interbank transfers by electronic means. [56656]

Mr Hoban: The Payment Services Regulations 2009 (which implemented the Payment Services Directive) require the execution time for credit transfers to be reduced to no later than the next business day. Firms have until 1 January 2012 to meet this requirement. Interbank transfers are often free for consumers and they are not subject to price controls.

Bank Services: Interest Rates

Damian Hinds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received on the practices of banks in displaying the interest rates paid on savings accounts; [56382]

(2) what representations he has received on the level of clarity in saving account interest rate offers; and what assessment he has made of the effects of the level of clarity in such offers on the *(a)* transparency and *(b)* competitiveness of the market. [56383]

Mr Hoban: The Government receive representations from stakeholders on a wide range of banking issues. Banks' conduct, including the information they provide on interest rates they may offer, is regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

As part of the FSA's Banking Code of Conduct Sourcebook (BCOBS), banks are obliged to provide notice to customers, where appropriate, of the expiry of an introductory, promotional or preferential rate of interest. Banks should also provide reasonable notice when they wish to make a material change to a rate of interest that will disadvantage the customer.

Following a recent consultation, the FSA amended BCOBS so that by the end of the year firms should provide interest rates on savings account statements.

Banks: Pay

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the proportion of bank bonuses paid by UK-based banks that was subject to income tax in the UK in the latest year for which information is available. [57178]

Justine Greening: The information is not available.

Business: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters of complaint he has received from the business community on the *(a)* removal of overdraft facilities and *(b)* removal of loan facilities to longstanding customers of (i) the Royal Bank of Scotland, (ii) Northern Rock and (iii) other financial institutions in which UK Financial Investments Ltd has a stake in each year since July 2007. [55905]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* HM Treasury has received approximately 1,718 letters concerning Royal Bank of Scotland, 2,559 concerning Northern Rock, 2,028 concerning Bradford and Bingley and 1,186 concerning Lloyds Banking Group since July 2007. These figures indicate the total volume of correspondence received in respect of each bank across any subject area.

Business: Regulation

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the 2011 Budget, HC 836, page 3, what estimate he has made of the likely number of *(a)* businesses and *(b)* small and medium-sized enterprises (i) nationally, (ii) in each region, (iii) in each local authority and (iv) in each parliamentary constituency likely to benefit from his decision to discontinue proposals for specific regulations which would have cost business over £350 million a year. [55708]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The regulations that contribute to the £350 million cost reduction for business include: extension of the Right to Request Time to Train to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), extension of Right to Request Flexible Working to parents of 17-year-olds, Dual Discrimination and Third Party harassment.

Right to request time to train

All SMEs in Great Britain (approximately 1.1 million) will avoid the potential cost of administering requests from employees arising from the right to request time to train regulations which were due to commence on 1 April.

Extension of right to request flexible working to parents of 17 years olds

We also announced that we would no longer extend the right to request flexible working to parents of 17 years olds to any business regardless of size. This means that all businesses will potentially benefit from our decision not to make this interim extension to the right to request flexible working.

Dual Discrimination

We have assumed all employers would familiarise themselves with the legislation and therefore all employers would benefit economically from the decision not to bring forward the dual discrimination provisions.

Third party harassment

The Impact Assessment estimated between 15 and 60 additional cases might be brought each year; this is an appropriate proxy for the number of employers which could potentially benefit. However, it is not possible to determine whether or not they are SMEs as we cannot predict which employers would have been most liable to claims. Neither can we break this down further by region, local authority or parliamentary constituency.

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the adequacy of the treatment of combined heat and power in the impact assessment his Department undertook in respect of a proposed carbon floor price mechanism. [57207]

Justine Greening: An assessment of the impacts of the carbon price floor is given in HMRC's Tax Information and Impact Note published alongside the Budget. This is available online at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6111.pdf

The Government continue to work with the Combined Heat and Power Association and its members, including representatives from the oil refining industry, in order to develop a simpler, direct and more effective means of support for combined heat and power stations.

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around his Department's premises; and how much such cameras cost to *(a)* install and *(b)* operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56842]

Justine Greening: There are 48 CCTV cameras in the Treasury building.

The costs of the camera installation were included in the refurbishment of the building by a PFI provider in 2002. The current operating cost is £3,500 per annum.

Departmental Refreshments

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48402]

Justine Greening: The Treasury does not have ministerial drinks cabinets.

All expenditure on official hospitality including alcohol is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity & Propriety".

Devolution

Mr Burley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the composition of the committee established to consider the future of the Barnett formula and the West Lothian question. [56618]

Danny Alexander: No committee has been established to consider the future of the Barnett formula. The Government recognise the concerns on the system devolved funding. However, at this time, the priority must be to reduce the deficit and therefore any change to the system must await the stabilisation of the public finances

The arrangement whereby MPs from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can vote on Westminster Bills is commonly known as the West Lothian question. As part of their programme of political reform, the Government have announced that they will establish a Commission to consider the West Lothian question. This commitment is included within the Government's priorities for 2011.

Economic Policy

Jacob Rees-Mogg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons he deposited the UK's Convergence Programme with the EU on 28 April 2011 prior to its approval by the House on a deferred Division on 4 May 2011; and if he will make a statement. [55729]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* The Convergence Programme was sent to the European Commission on 28 April in order to meet an agreed deadline of 30 April for submission of both Convergence Programmes and National Reform Programmes. This was agreed as part of the new European Semester. However, the Commission was advised that the document must be regarded as a draft until parliamentary scrutiny procedures are completed. This has been established practice in recent years where parliamentary debates on the Government's economic and budgetary assessment have not taken place at the time of submitting the Convergence Programme to the EU (a debate did not take place in the other place/House until 12 May).

All of the information contained in the Convergence Programme has already been published and made available to Members.

The UK's Convergence Programme itself does not require Parliament's approval. Due to the provisions of section 5 of the European Communities (Amendment) Act 1993 it must be based upon an assessment of the economic and budgetary position which has been reported to Parliament by the Government for its approval. This year that assessment comprised the 2011 Budget report and the OBR's 'Economic and fiscal outlook'—as set out in the 2011 Budget report itself. These documents were deposited in the Libraries of both Houses on 23 March for subsequent approval. The Budget report and associated documents are routinely debated and approved by the House of Commons.

The Government take Parliament's involvement in this process very seriously. That is why, during negotiations on the new European Semester, the Government secured an exemption from the requirement to send draft budgetary plans to the Commission. The UK will continue to send our Budget—in the form of the Convergence Programme—only once it has been presented to Parliament by the Chancellor.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what date he expects Equitable Life's with-profit annuitants to start to receive compensation from the scheme established for this purpose. [56351]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* As I announced on 16 May, the Equitable Life Payment Scheme will make its first payments by the end of June. It will aim to make first payments to all with profits annuitants eligible for a payment by June 2012, subject to the policyholder being successfully identified and traced.

European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism

Mr Carswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the advice given by his Department's legal advisers in response to the opinion of the Council of Ministers on the legality of the European Stabilisation Mechanism established under article 122 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. [55756]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers received advice on this issue, including legal advice, as part of the normal process of policy development.

Policy development and information relating to recent policy announcements need a degree of freedom to enable the process to work effectively. The release of information so soon after discussions took place would result in less full and frank discussions in the future, harming the policy formulation and development process.

Mr Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) for what reasons he did not challenge the legal basis of the European Financial Stability Mechanism; [56640]

(2) whether he received legal advice on the legality of the European Financial Stability Mechanism in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [56641]

Mr Hoban: The European Financial Stability Mechanism (EFSM) was created following agreement by a qualified majority of member states at the ECOFIN meeting on 9 May 2010. The meeting took place before the formation of the coalition Government and was attended by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Edinburgh South West (Mr Darling), who consulted opposition parties. The Chancellor of the Exchequer cautioned against committing the UK to proposals that have a lasting effect on the UK's public finances. However, he made it clear that given the right hon. Member for Edinburgh South West was still Chancellor of the Exchequer at that point, it was for him to reach decisions. All contact between the Treasury and the Opposition parties followed the agreed Cabinet Office guidelines for the 2010 general election.

The terms of the EFSM are set out in EU Council Regulation No. 407/2010. It is compatible with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), Article 122(2) of which states:

> "Where a Member State is in difficulties or is seriously threatened with severe difficulties caused by natural disasters or exceptional occurrences beyond its control, the Council, acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission, may grant, under certain conditions, Community financial assistance to the Member State concerned."

The Council decided that, in these circumstances, those criteria applied, as the regulation itself makes clear.

The Government have secured agreement at the December European Council that the EFSM will cease to exist in 2013 at the latest, that Article 122(2) TFEU will not be used for the purpose of ensuring the financial stability of the euro area as a whole, and that only euro area member states will be required to contribute to the permanent European Stability Mechanism.

Financial Services: Taxation

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his G20 counterparts on the introduction of a multilateral financial transaction tax; and if he will make a statement. [56857]

Mr Hoban: The Government of France have announced that discussion of financial transactions taxes will be one of their priorities for their presidency of the G20 this year. In addition, as requested by ECOFIN, the European Commission is currently preparing an impact assessment on financial sector taxation, including financial transactions taxes.

The UK Government believe a financial transactions tax would need to be applied globally to prevent the relocation of financial services and are willing to engage in further international discussions of such taxes.

Fiscal Policy: Environment Protection

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures his Department plans to put in place to increase levels of private sector research and development in low-carbon technologies during the comprehensive spending review period. [56288]

Justine Greening: As well as introducing the Patent Box, which will encourage investment in all patented technologies, Budget 2011 announced an increase in the SME rate of R and D tax credit to 200% from April 2011, and 225% from April 2012, subject to state aid approval; simplification of the R and D tax credit schemes; and an additional £100 million in 2011-12 in science capital development to provide facilities for the commercialisation of research, accommodation for innovative SMEs and new research capabilities.

During this spending period several Departments will invest in low-carbon innovation, for example DECC will provide £200 million supporting technologies such as offshore wind.

Food: Prices

Laura Sandys: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on steps to address global food price inflation. [56868]

Justine Greening: The Treasury and other Departments, including the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, discuss developments in global commodity markets on a regular basis.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with large food producers on the effects of global food price inflation. [56869]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials regularly meet with representatives from a wide range of public and private sector organisations, including food producers. Such engagement occurs throughout policy development and implementation. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's forecast is for food price inflation for each year to 2014-15. [56879]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR published a full analysis on the prospects for overall inflation in their forecast at Budget, which can be found online at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk

The OBR's forecast for commodity prices is

> "broadly flat as the supply response to higher prices to be offset by a continued rise in global demand, leaving prices broadly stable at their current levels over the forecast period."

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the announcement in the 2011 Budget to exclude feed-in tariff-based trades from the Enterprise Investment Scheme and Venture Capital Trusts applies to *(a)* community interest companies and industrial provident society structures and *(b)* other similar social enterprises. [56817]

Justine Greening: Legislation will be introduced in Finance Bill 2012 providing that companies whose trade consists wholly or substantially in the receipt of feed-in tariffs will only be eligible for the Enterprise Investment Scheme or Venture Capital Trusts where commercial electricity generation commences before 6 April 2012. The change will not apply to any shares issued before 23 March 2011.

This change is designed to improve the focus of the schemes on smaller, higher risk companies. Draft legislation will be published for consultation before it is implemented.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Mr Spencer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from the sustainable biodiesel industry on the adequacy of the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO) mechanism to replace the support provided by the 20 pence duty differential for biodiesel made from used cooking oil; and if he will assess the merits of extending the differential until the RTFO has been proven an adequate support mechanism for the industry. [56415]

Justine Greening: As part of the Budget process, the Treasury routinely receives representations from stakeholders on a range of issues. The duty differential will end as intended on 31 March 2012. An open consultation is currently under way at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/

and the industry is invited to respond.

Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average cost to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) of an employee working in its Debt Management and Banking (DMB) unit is; and what his most recent estimate is for the average amount of debt collected annually by an HMRC employee working in the DMB unit. [56244]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* In 2010-11, the average salary of an employee working in HMRC's Debt Management and Banking directorate (DMB) was £27,051.15.

The most recent published accounts and the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General showed that DMB collected £67.9 billion in 2009-10.

As at 31 March 2010 DMB had 7,101 full-time equivalent staff.

Taxation: Aviation

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the legal advice he has received on the compatibility of a per-plane tax with international law; what steps he plans to take to seek support for such a tax among his international counterparts; what timetable he has set for such action; and what his policy is on the eventual introduction of such a tax. [56131]

Justine Greening: The Government do not routinely publish legal advice in order to safeguard openness in communications between Ministers and officials, and ensure access to full and frank advice.

As set out at Budget 2011, the Government will not introduce a per-plane duty at the present time, given concerns over the legality and feasibility of this approach. The Government will continue working with our international partners to build consensus for a per-plane duty in the future.

Taxation: Combined Heat and Power

Michael Connarty: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects on oil refining costs of the removal of tax exemption for combined heat and power. [54002]

Justine Greening: Following the Chancellor's Budget announcement, the Government continue to work with the Combined Heat and Power Association and its members, including representatives from the oil refining industry, in order to develop a simpler, direct and more effective means of support for combined heat and power stations. From 2013, the new relief from the carbon price floor will supersede the existing relief provided through levy exemption certificates, with the intention that CHP plants will continue to receive an appropriate level of support.

Taxation: Offshore Industry

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the energy company obligation is deemed to be levy-funded spending. [56797]

Justine Greening: As with similar obligations the Energy Company Obligation will be considered levy-funded spending if it is classified by the Office for National Statistics as tax and spending for National Accounts purposes.

Terrorism: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 4 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 19-22WS, on the terrorist asset-freezing regime (17 December 2010 to 31 March 2011), with which banks were accounts frozen under the al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime. [56299]

Mr Hoban: It would not be in the interest of the effective operation of the asset freezing regime to disclose the names of the banks which hold accounts for persons subject to the al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime. This information is provided by the banks to the Treasury in confidence for the purposes of monitoring compliance and enforcement with sanctions.

SCOTLAND

Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57131]

David Mundell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 611W.

Conditions of Employment

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of the Scottish Trades Union Congress to discuss the Government's review of employment rights. [57072]

Michael Moore: I held a meeting with representatives of the Scottish Trades Union Congress's General Council on 21 March 2011, at which we discussed Government proposals related to the workplace.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on his proposals to *(a)* extend his review of employment law and *(b)* assess the merits of (i) uncapped compensation awards in discrimination tribunal case, (ii) the 90-day consultation period rule for collective redundancies and (iii) staff transfer rules in respect of salaries and benefits of employees moved from the public to the private sector. [57080]

Michael Moore: I am in regular contact with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a range of matters.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56767]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has not initiated, terminated or amended in the last 12 months any longitudinal or other research or collection of data. There have been no such research or data collection exercises susceptible to amendment in that period.

Members

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 551W, on Members, what the name is of each right hon. and hon. Member whom his Department has identified as having an interest in Scottish affairs. [57011]

David Mundell: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 31W, on Members, and on 1 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 515W.

In addition to MPs with a Scottish constituency, and past and present Members of the Scottish Affairs Committee with constituencies outwith Scotland, generic correspondence has been copied to the following hon. Members who have intimated a specific interest in Scottish affairs:

The hon. Member for Brentford and Isleworth (Mary Macleod)
The hon. Member for Epping Forest (Mrs Laing)
The hon. Member for Milton Keynes South (Iain Stewart).

I am delighted that these hon. Members have expressed an interest in Scottish affairs and I encourage all hon. Members to take such an interest.

Ministers

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he next plans to meet the First Minister of Scotland. [56509]

Michael Moore: I met the First Minister recently and plan to meet him again in the near future.

Rescue Services

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Transport on Coastguard Agency staff located in Scotland appearing before the Transport Select Committee. [57073]

Michael Moore: I can confirm that Coastguard Agency staff are able to attend the series of meetings being held across the United Kingdom by the Transport Select Committee, the most recent of which was in Stornoway on 19 May 2011. Ministers have encouraged Coastguard Agency staff across the UK to share their views on proposals for modernising Her Majesty's Coastguard with the Transport Select Committee. The Committee has received written views and a number of submissions setting out alternative proposals from serving staff. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has facilitated opportunities for the Committee to meet operational coastguards at the Coastguard Centres at Falmouth, Clyde and Stornoway, and coastguards from other centres were encouraged to attend those sessions. Ministers have also proposed that members of the PCS Union can give formal evidence to the Committee in their capacity as union representatives. The Scotland Office has offered assistance to the Committee with arranging visits in Scotland, should this be required.

Scotland Bill

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on the Scotland Bill; and if he will make a statement. [56510]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with the Prime Minister on a range of matters including the Scotland Bill.

Scottish Parliament

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he next plans to visit the Scottish Parliament. [56511]

Michael Moore: I have made a number of visits to the Scottish Parliament and I look forward to visiting it again in the near future.

Taxation: Aviation

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment his Department has made of the economic effects on Scotland of a reduction in the levels of aviation taxation; and if he will make a statement. [56513]

David Mundell: Taxation is a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Government are currently consulting on reform of air passenger duty with the aim of having a simple and fairer tax system for air transport services in the UK which does not hamper economic growth.

TRANSPORT

Crossrail Line: Consultants

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on consultation services for the Crossrail project in the last 12 months. [55332]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not spent any money on consultation services for the Crossrail project in the last 12 months.

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54570]

Norman Baker: The Department estimates that it will spend less than 1% of its overall budget on pensions in each of the next four years. No estimate has been made for 2015-16 as this is outside the current spending review period.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department plans to cease to fund any of its functions over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [55182]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport achieved the majority of the savings required in the spending review by reducing budgets for lower priority/lower value for money programmes, by targeting or descoping programmes and through improved procurement processes.

Funding for some minor programme functions has ceased, totalling £0.8 million in each year of the spending review. In addition funding for some minor administration functions has ended as part of the Department's overall administration budget reduction of 33% but these functions are not separately identifiable.

As part of the spending review, decisions were taken not to fund some lower priority road schemes. Total estimated costs are £1 billion of which £250 million would be required within the spending review period.

In addition, the current A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton scheme, with a total estimated cost of £1.2 billion of which £600 million would be within the spending review period, was stopped in its current form and the corridor is being re-examined to identify a viable way forward.

Furthermore, the third round of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Street Lighting programme was cancelled. Seven local authorities were seeking some £700 million in PFI credits.

The most significant examples of changes to programmes are stated in the Transport Spending Review Press Notice, dated 20 October 2010. The link to the Central Office of Information's News Distribution Service is:

http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=416118&SubjectId=16&AdvancedSearch=true

Driving Offences: Speed Limits

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has for future levels of penalties for motorists convicted of speeding offences. [56684]

Mike Penning: The Government recently published their Strategic Framework for Road Safety which sets out how they intend to reduce deaths and serious injuries on Britain's roads. This can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/strategicframework/

Among the measures included, we propose to increase the level of fixed penalty notices for traffic offences to £80-£100 from the current level of £60.

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51408]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and is made up of a central Department DfT(C) and seven Executive agencies as follows:

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)
Highways Agency (HA)
Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
Driving Standards Agency (DSA)
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)
Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA).

This response includes both the central Department and the executive agencies.

(a) The last financial year for which the DfT has data is 2009-10. The recorded spend on recruitment agencies fees in terms of search and selection for this period was £6,128,339 (the following table shows the breakdown across the Department).

Department/agency	*Amount spent (£)*
DfT(C)	4,110,802
DVLA	33,545
HA	618,279
VCA	13,645
MCA	323,270
DSA	218,481
VOSA	264,114
GCDA	546,203
Total	6,128,339

(b) The Department spent £10,950 (excl. VAT) in the last financial year on outplacement fees. This was to provide outplacement support for staff at the Redeployment and Career Advice Centre at DfT(C).

(c) The last financial year for which the DfT has data is 2009-10. The recorded spend on staff training for DfT during this period was £12,558,897 (the following table shows the breakdown across the Department).

Department/agency	*Amount spent (£)*
DfT(C)	938,300
DVLA	1,389,555
HA	7,531,648
VCA	405,982
MCA	1,209,537
DSA	426,992
VOSA	566,663
GCDA	90,220
Total	12,558,897

High Speed Two Railway Line: North-west England

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential economic benefit to the North West of High Speed Two. [55650]

Mr Philip Hammond: HS2 Ltd estimate that, based on trip origin data, the North West could experience around 23% of the £22 billion benefits of the initial London-West Midlands phase of a new high speed network. The full "Y" shaped high speed rail network, proposed by Government, which would include a direct high speed link to Manchester, has the potential to generate even more significant overall benefits worth £44 billion over the appraisal period, but no assessment has currently been made of the proportions accruing to specific regions.

In addition to these monetised benefits, a national high speed rail network would have the potential to bring significant strategic economic benefits to the North West through supporting regeneration, job creation, and long-term economic growth.

Level Crossings: Accidents

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many injuries on level crossings there have been in the last five years. [55322]

Mrs Villiers: I can confirm that there have been 332 injuries to passengers, members of the public and workforce in the last five years. 43 of these were considered major injuries.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage procurement of low-carbon commercial vehicles by *(a)* the public and *(b)* the private sector. [53329]

Norman Baker: The Government are committed to reducing emissions arising from road transport. To this end, we are supporting a number of measures designed to promote take-up of low carbon commercial vehicles:

The Low Carbon Vehicle Public Procurement Programme is delivering funding of £9 million to support the introduction of over 200 electric and low carbon vans into a range of different fleets.

The Green Bus Fund is helping bus operators and local authorities purchase low carbon buses. The fund has delivered over £46 million to support purchase of 526 hybrid and all-electric buses, all of which are expected to be in service by 2012.

The Government are also supporting the installation of recharging infrastructure needed to support use of electric vehicles. £30 million has been provided through the Government's 'Plugged-In Places' programme, which is helping to provide electric vehicle recharging infrastructure in key locations across the UK.

Public Transport: Carbon Emissions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to reduce the volume of greenhouse gas emissions arising from public transport; and what expenditure it has incurred on such steps in the latest period for which figures are available. [55323]

Norman Baker: As outlined in the Carbon Plan, published in March 2011, the Government are committed to reducing emissions from all sectors, including transport. As part of the overall strategy, the Department for Transport is supporting a number of measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from public transport, including:

providing £46.8 million to help support the purchase of over 500 new low carbon buses, all of which will be in operation in England by March 2012;

providing an incentive through the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) scheme to encourage the use of low carbon buses, on which a total of £92,000 was spent in 2009-10.

Rail electrification is also an important part of the Department's carbon reduction strategy, and we have announced schemes to electrify the routes between Liverpool, Manchester, Preston and Blackpool and the Great Western Main Line.

Public Transport: Vandalism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce vandalism on public transport services. [55317]

Mrs Villiers: We are committed to reducing crime, antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime wherever it occurs in the transport system. Crime on public transport can best be tackled by industry working together with the police and local authorities to reduce the incidence of vandalism.

Railways: Overcrowding

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with train operating companies on the deregulation of first class travel on overcrowded commuter services. [54234]

Mrs Villiers: Ministers meet with train operating companies on a frequent basis, and a wide variety of topics are discussed. However, there have been no discussions with train operators specifically to discuss the declassification of first class accommodation.

It is an operational matter for train operators to decide whether to allow holders of standard class tickets to use first class accommodation (where available), as permitted under Condition 39 of the National Rail Conditions of Carriage.

Railways: Tickets

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with Transport for London an extension of the Oyster card fare payment system to include Slough station. [55450]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* Officials have discussed the issue with Transport for London and First Group. There are a number of technical, policy and financial considerations which need to be addressed before any decision can be made on whether to extend Oyster out to Slough station.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has established a monitoring and forecasting process for salt stocks and supplies as recommended in the Winter Resilience Review interim report. [56039]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 17 May 2011]:* In taking action on the recommendations from the Winter Resilience Review report which were assigned to the Department for Transport, we developed a salt stock monitoring portal system. In co-operation with local highway authorities, Transport for London, the devolved Administrations and the Highways Agency, we undertook regular audits of both local authority and highways agency salt stock levels throughout the winter.

These audits commenced weekly in early December 2010 and, following an improved weather situation, a decision was taken to suspend them in February 2011.

In order to inform preparations for next winter, we are currently undertaking a survey of highway authorities to assess their latest salt stock holdings and plans for restocking.

The Department also worked closely with the domestic salt producers throughout the winter.

Vehicle Number Plates

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to strengthen the integrity of the number plate regime. [56470]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has a register of authorised suppliers as a means of controlling the availability of number plates.

There is evidence that despite this control, number plates are obtained illegally and used for criminal activities.

Officials will continue to review the system to see what improvements could be made to strengthen the regime and tackle crime.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the level of farming incomes; and if she will make a statement. [55343]

Mr Paice: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave her on 3 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 1026. The latest forecasts of farm incomes, published in January, can be found on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/files/defra-stats-fbs-farm-business-income-1101.pdf

Actual farm incomes from the Farm Business Survey for 2010-11 will be published at the end of October.

Air Pollution

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the European Commission on UK compliance with EU air quality limits. [56204]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs met with Commissioner Potocnik on 27 January to discuss a range of issues of interest to DEFRA including progress being made towards compliance with EU air quality limits.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration she has given to proposals to require circuses to adopt the minimum standards for keeping animals required of zoos. [56125]

Mr Paice: We have been working with representatives of animal welfare organisations and the circus industry to consider this and many other proposals on the use of wild animals in circuses to establish our policy on this issue.

On 13 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 48WS, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced plans to consult on a new licensing system for the use of wild animals in circuses. The Government will consult on the welfare standards, which will be drawn up following discussion with welfare experts and other interested parties.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to announce the outcome of her Department's consultation on the use of wild animals in circuses. [55628]

Mr Paice: On 13 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 48WS, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced plans to consult on a new licensing system for the use of wild animals in circuses. The Government will consult on the welfare standards, which will be drawn up following discussion with welfare experts and other interested parties.

Animal Welfare: Seized Articles

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance her Department issues to police forces on the animal welfare considerations to be taken into account when seizing animals as part of a police action. [56342]

Mr Paice: No specific guidance is issued to police on the welfare considerations of seized animals. However, at the time the Animal Welfare Act 2006 was introduced, police forces were provided with explanatory notes. These notes set out the responsibilities of owners and keepers of animals, whether on a permanent or temporary basis.

When animals are seized we would expect police forces to work closely with organisations such as the RSPCA to ensure that welfare needs are met.

Bees

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions she has had with professional beekeeper representative organisations on establishing the UK Apiculture Programme; [55083]

(2) how much of the funding from the EU under the UK Apiculture Programme was spent on professional beekeepers in the latest period for which figures are available; [55084]

(3) what funding the Government receive from the EU for the purposes of improving production and marketing of honey and other bee products under the UK Apiculture Programme. [55085]

Mr Paice: The UK Apiculture Programme for the period 2010-13 was submitted to the European Commission for approval in April 2010. This programme provides partial reimbursement of up to 50% of member states' own expenditure. Beekeeping stakeholders, including the Bee Farmers' Association which represents commercial beekeepers, were consulted on the 2010-13 programme before submission to the Commission.

In England, the Apiculture Programme focuses on helping beekeepers through the provision of technical advice via inspection visits and a comprehensive training and education programme for all beekeepers, both professional and amateur. The programme in England is implemented by the National Bee Unit, part of the Food and Environment Research Agency, where the expenditure on this was £252,000 in 2008, £254,000 in 2009 and £268,000 in 2010 from the UK allocations. The devolved Administrations have their own programmes.

The European Commission has increased its funding to the programme for 2010-13, and as a result member states' allocations have increased. England's allocation is around £465,000 for each year of the programme.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Berkshire

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many instances of bovine TB were reported in Berkshire in each of the last five years. [55720]

Mr Paice: The following table shows the number of new bovine TB instances in Berkshire in each of the last five years.

	Total new herd incidents
2006	1
2007	4
2008	3
2009	2
2010	7

Source:
DEFRA's Animal Health Database (Vetnet)

Departmental Responsibilities

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost of her Department's Rural and Farming Network in each of the next four years. [55497]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* After years of estrangement between the rural communities and the previous Government, we are now establishing strong relationships with people living and working in rural areas. The Rural and Farming Network is an important part of this work.

DEFRA's Farming and Food Chain Programme and Rural Communities Policy Unit will provide a joint secretariat to support the development and operation of the Rural and Farming Network. We have not identified a separate cost as this will be part of business as usual and we do not yet know the size of the network. The individual groups which make up the network will be self-supporting and not reliant on central Government funding.

Energy: National Policy Statements

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely effects of the national policy statement framework on the expansion of renewable technologies. [56305]

Charles Hendry: I have been asked to reply, as I have responsibility for the national policy statements (NPS) that apply to renewable energy technologies.

The revised draft Overarching NPS (EN-1) sets out Government's policy and targets for renewable electricity generation, with around 33 GW of new renewable capacity needed by 2025. The NPSs will facilitate this investment by providing a planning framework that gives more certainty and clarity to developers about how their proposals will be assessed within the Planning Act 2008 regime.

Farmers: Subsidies

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many eligible claims for the Single Payment Scheme are outstanding to farmers in Crewe and Nantwich constituency; and what the combined value of such claims is. [55508]

Mr Paice: The Rural Payments Agency does not record information on payments to farmers on a constituency basis. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Farming

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take in response to the Foresight report on global food and farming futures; and if she will make a statement. [55526]

Mr Paice: In response to the Foresight report the Government plan to take the following actions:

Champion a more integrated approach by governments and international institutions to global food security that makes links with climate change, poverty, biodiversity, energy and other policies.

Explore further with Foresight, the United Nations (UN) High-Level Task Force on the Food Security Crisis and UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) the concept of a 'food system dashboard' to support this integrated approach, monitoring progress and key areas of uncertainty across the whole food system.

Continue to press for full integration of agricultural greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change process; take forward Nagoya work on international biodiversity; and promote the importance of sustainable intensification of agriculture more broadly.

Continue to press for reform of the common agricultural policy and common fisheries policy so they are better focused on long-term environmental sustainability and avoid harmful subsidies; support the EU as it seeks to negotiate a genuinely pro-poor conclusion to the Doha Development Round which includes a significant opening of agricultural markets; and plan an active role in talks in the G20, FAO and elsewhere aimed at finding ways of managing volatility.

Showcase what can be achieved on food waste reduction within the UK, working with other countries and multinational companies to share and disseminate good practice.

Work in partnership with our whole food chain, including consumers, to ensure the UK leads the way on sustainable intensification of agriculture, increasing the productivity and competitiveness of UK farming and the UK food chain while reducing GHG emissions, protecting and enhancing the natural environment and using resources more sustainably, so that agriculture and the food sector can contribute fully to the green economy.

Farms: Inspections

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps she has taken to *(a)* harmonise and *(b)* reduce the number of inspections of farms; [55418]

(2) what steps she has taken to reduce paperwork for farmers; and if she will make a statement. [55472]

Mr Paice: In July last year I set up a Task Force on Farming Regulation to identify ways to reduce regulatory burdens on farmers and to advise on how best to achieve a risk-based system of regulation. The task force has consulted widely and met with farming organisations and others to obtain their views. The recommendations of the task force were published on 17 May and we are considering them carefully.

Fishery Agreements: Morocco

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what categories of fishing were allocated to UK vessels under the terms of the EU-Moroccan Fisheries Partnership Agreement 2007. [56814]

Richard Benyon: The UK was allocated a quota of 2,500 tonnes of pelagic species under category 6 of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many licences *(a)* were allocated to the UK under the EU-Moroccan Fisheries Partnership Agreement when the agreement came into force in February 2007 and *(b)* the UK held when the Agreement expired in February 2011. [56815]

Richard Benyon: The UK was allocated two licences under the EU-Moroccan Fisheries Partnership Agreement when the agreement came into force in February 2007.

When the agreement expired in February 2011, the UK still held two licences.

Food: Commodity Markets

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate her Department has made of the effect of commodity speculation on food prices. [55826]

Mr Paice: We have seen no conclusive evidence that speculation is leading to increased food price volatility, which is why we do not support calls for further controls on speculation. Furthermore, farmers need liquid markets so they can hedge their price risk. We prefer to tackle food price volatility at its roots through measures to improve the flow of information to the markets, restrict export bans and invest in productivity.

Heathrow Airport: Air Pollution

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent assessment she has made of the levels of particulate matter 10 in the air at Heathrow airport and in the surrounding area; [56201]

(2) what recent assessment she has made of levels of nitrogen dioxide in the air at Heathrow airport and in the surrounding area. [56203]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA undertakes air quality monitoring of various pollutants at two sites in the area surrounding Heathrow. The sites are known as London Hillingdon:

http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/networks/aurn-site-info?site_id=HIL

and London Harlington:

http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/networks/aurn-site-info?site_id=HRL

Further information on these two stations and real time and historic data from the stations are available online at:

http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/

Ambient nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particulate matter (PM_{10}) concentrations across the whole of the UK have been recently modelled in order to assess compliance with the EU ambient air quality directive. Annual mean concentrations have been calculated for urban background locations on a 1km x 1km grid and values for roadside concentrations have been calculated for over 9,000 individual urban roads. The most recent assessment for which results are available covers 2009.

The highest modelled background PM_{10} concentration in the Heathrow area is in the north-east of the airport (grid reference for the centre of the 1 km x 1 km square of 508500, 176500) with an annual mean concentration of 22.0 ugm-3. The highest modelled roadside PM_{10} concentration in the Heathrow area is along the A4 north of the airport (censusid 16112) with an annual mean concentration of 25.4 ugm-3.

The highest modelled background NO_2 concentration in the Heathrow area is in the centre of the airport (grid reference for the centre of the 1km x 1km square of 507500, 175500) with an annual mean concentration of 49.7 ugm-3. The highest modelled roadside NO_2 concentration in the Heathrow area is along the A4 north of the airport (censusid 16112) with an annual mean concentration of 66.5 ugm-3.

More information on the 2009 assessment is available at:

http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/annualreport/viewonline?year=2009b&jump=3

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the merits of meeting EU air quality limits for nitrogen dioxide at Heathrow airport and the surrounding area through the development of a sustainable framework for UK aviation. [56202]

Richard Benyon: The consultation document 'Developing a sustainable framework for UK aviation: scoping document' published by the Department for Transport in March, recognises that aviation contributes to nitrogen dioxide pollution near airports through aircraft engine emissions, airport operations and road transport to and from airports. In addition, it recognises that Government, as well as airport operators and local authorities, have a role to play in working towards compliance as quickly as possible. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has had no recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Transport on the specific issue of air quality around Heathrow airport. However, she meets regularly with the Secretary of State for Transport to discuss a range of environmental matters, and officials are working together constructively on the development of the sustainable framework for UK aviation.

Lighting: Carbon Emissions

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether she plans to review statutory requirements for advice to be printed on the packaging of low energy light bulbs on action to be taken in the event of breakage; [55175]

(2) whether she plans to review and update her Department's advice to consumers on *(a)* the disposal of low energy light bulbs and *(b)* the precautions to be taken in the event of breakage. [55176]

Mr Paice: EU regulation 244/2009 requires the provision of free access websites containing information on what to do in the event of a low energy light bulb breaking, and for the website links to be provided on packaging. This is not expected to be reviewed until 2014 when the Commission will review the regulation.

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2006 (as amended) also place an obligation on distributors of household EEE to provide their customers with information on the arrangements through which they can dispose of WEEE, including low energy light bulbs, free of charge. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, which is the lead Department for the WEEE regulations, does not have plans to review or amend these obligations. However, negotiations regarding proposals for a recast of the EU WEEE directive, the basis of the UK regulations, are ongoing in Europe.

The relevant advice to consumers on precautions to be taken in the event of a breakage is issued by the Health Protection Agency. There are no plans to update this advice.

Advice on the disposal of low energy light bulbs under the WEEE regulations is provided through a number of channels. There are no plans to review or update the advice to consumers on disposal of low energy light bulbs.

Livestock

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to ensure that consumers are able to identify whether meat produce has come from a high-intensity industrial farm. [55703]

Mr Paice: The Government are committed to honesty in food labelling and we have facilitated the development of industry owned principles[1] which provide consumers with clearer information on the origin of their food. We want clarity and transparency for those consumers who choose to buy produce based on its origin, particularly if they believe they are buying British.

The EU does not require member states to label meat with the type of farm from which it has been reared. It is incorrect to assume that animal welfare is directly linked to farm size, or system of production. The most important influence on the welfare of farm animals is the knowledge, skills and experience of the farmers who care for them. However, where there are no legal requirements, businesses are able to provide information on production systems on a voluntary basis if they choose.

UK farms operate to some of the highest welfare standards in the world.

[1] http://www.brc.org.uk/downloads/principles_on_country_of_origin_information_241110.doc

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effect on smaller farms of the introduction of factory-style farms and high-intensity industrial farming. [55704]

Mr Paice: No such assessment has been made. However, the Government believe that there is a place in UK agriculture for all sustainable production systems that meet welfare and environmental standards, so that the industry can meet varied consumer demands and be competitive on UK, EU and global markets.

Pigs

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effect on the welfare of pigs of high-intensity industrial farming. [55705]

Mr Paice: No such assessment has been made. However, all farm animals, in whatever system they are kept, are protected by comprehensive animal welfare legislation which requires some of the highest standards of animal welfare in the world. In England, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal. The Act also contains a duty of care to animals; this means that anyone responsible for an animal must take reasonable steps to make sure the animal's needs are met. These general requirements are supplemented by more detailed ones for pigs in the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007, which lay down requirements in respect of general welfare, inspection, housing and feeding for all farmed animals.

There is also a Code of Recommendations for Livestock: Pigs, published on the DEFRA website, which farmers are required by law to have access to, and be familiar with, which encourages high standards of husbandry.

It is also important to recognise that poor welfare may occur in both intensive and extensive systems. The most significant influence on the welfare of livestock is the stock-keeper, not the system in which is it reared.

Sustainable Development

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition of sustainable development her Department uses. [56949]

Richard Benyon: On 28 February, the Government set out their vision of sustainable development as an approach which allows us to realise our vision of stimulating economic growth, tackling the deficit, maximising well-being and protecting our environment. This should be achieved without negatively impacting on the ability of future generations to do the same.

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent meetings she has had with ministerial colleagues to discuss the Government's Plan for Growth. [56948]

Richard Benyon: The Government's Plan for Growth was published alongside the Budget. It builds on action taken at the spending review to restore economic stability and is the result of 12 growth reviews set up to look at barriers to growth and what Government can do to address them. Ministerial discussions were had in the usual course of business in the lead up to the Budget.

Veterinary Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure her Department has incurred on veterinary services in each of the last five years. [55242]

Mr Paice: The budgets of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) and Animal Health (AH), all of which provide and support veterinary services, for each of the last five years are set out in the following table.

			£ million
	VMD	*VLA*	*AH*
2006-07	3.3	100.3	112.1
2007-08	3.3	101.0	118.6
2008-09	3.5	96.2	116.5
2009-10	3.7	95.7	134.0
2010-11[1]	3.4	74.5	126.4

[1] Forecast out-turn.

Water

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish her proposed White Paper on water industry reform. [56951]

Richard Benyon: Following the launch of DEFRA's Business Plan, we anticipate publishing the Water White Paper by December 2011.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to respond to Question 51051, on neonicotinoid pesticides tabled on 31 March 2011 for answer on 4 April 2011. [55970]

Mr Paice: I answered question 51051 on 26 April 2011, *Official Report,* columns 21-22W.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Attorney-General how many staff of *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments, *(b)* the National Fraud Authority and *(c)* the Treasury Solicitor's Department are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56434]

The Solicitor-General: There are no full-time trade union representatives in the Treasury Solicitor's Department or the Attorney-General's Office. Six members of staff work part-time on trade union activities. Of these six members of staff, four are paid more than £25,900 annually. The total cost of employing these staff on trade union duties in 2010-11 was £65,092.

During 2009-10, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) had 10 full-time trade union representatives and 213 staff undertaking union activities on a part-time basis. 138 staff were paid more than £25,900 during the period 2009-10. The cost of employing these staff on trade union duties in 2009-10 was approximately £750,000.

Seven members of staff in the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) work part-time on trade union activities. A new consultation framework and facilities agreement was signed by the SFO and the three recognised trade unions (FDA, Prospect and PCS) in January 2011. In accordance with the ACAS Code of Practice "Time off for Trades Union Duties and Activities" this agreement granted each trade union a total of 50 days per year for all trade union activity undertaken by their representatives. The estimated total annual cost of facility time is £21,000. The SFO does not hold any historical information on the cost to the public purse of trade union representatives.

All current trade union representatives are paid more than £25,900 per year.

HMCPSI has a Whitley Council which meets quarterly and is attended by FDA and PCS representatives—currently there are (a) two representatives from the FDA and one from PCS.

HMCPSI follow the ACAS Code of Practice "Time off for Trades Union Duties and Activities" and where it is necessary for union representatives to devote time to specific activities on personal cases, this is done by agreement with their line manager. No formal record is maintained. Two of the representatives have an annual salary of more than £25,900 and it is estimated that representatives spend, five days or less on union related actives each year. It is not possible to give a more accurate cost as no formal records are kept.

The National Fraud Authority (NFA) now falls under the responsibilities of the Home Office and any requests for information relating to NFA should be addressed to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Temporary Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many non-permanent staff of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission are paid a daily sum of *(a)* £1,000 or more, *(b)* between £750 and £1,000, *(c)* between £500 and £750 and *(d)* between £250 and £500 inclusive of VAT for their work with the Commission. [55582]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 13 May 2011]*: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (the Commission) is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

The Commission's daily rates of pay are set excluding VAT. The Commission does not separately hold details of VAT payments to non-permanent staff.

The daily sums for non-permanent staff, exclusive of VAT, are set out in the following table.

	Number of non-permanent staff
Daily sum of £1,000 or more	0
Daily sum between £750 and £1,000	4
Daily sum between £500 and £750	12
Daily sum between £250 and £500	11

Gender Recognition

Meg Hillier: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what meetings the Minister for Equalities held with transgender groups to discuss the policy of the Government Equalities Office on equality between her appointment and 28 June 2010. [11632]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government have published "Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGB and T) Equality". This ambitious work plan outlines actions Government will take to advance LGB and T equality. In particular, it commits Government to work with transgender groups to develop a programme of specific action for transgender equality and to publish this action plan in 2011.

Between my appointment and the 28 June 2010, I had a telephone conversation with the Gender Identity Research and Education Society covering various issues affecting the transgender community.

I will be meeting with transgender groups as part of the development of the Transgender Action Plan.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many civil servants in the Government Equalities Office spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 2007. [11666]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) has had one elected trade union official in post since 2009, who is allocated a facility time allowance of up to 26 days a year.

The GEO representative has used the full allowance permitted since 2009.

Mr Raab: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many staff of the Government Equalities Office are entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56451]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office has one member of staff who works part-time on trade union activities. Their annual salary is in excess of £25,900. The annual cost of employing them on trade union activities was £2,784 for the 2010-11 financial year.

PRIME MINISTER

Scottish Grand Committee

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Prime Minister if he will instruct the Secretary of State for Scotland to table a motion for the Scottish Grand Committee to sit. [56521]

The Prime Minister: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland will continue to debate and discuss issues relating to Scotland with Members of Parliament and other colleagues.

Special Advisers: Disciplinary Proceedings

Caroline Flint: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions disciplinary action has been taken against special advisers since May 2010. [56229]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 565W.

WALES

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff of her Department are entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56450]

Mr David Jones: We are too small a Department to warrant a full-time trade union representative and currently have no one undertaking part-time activities. Trade union support to staff is currently provided through the Ministry of Justice. The last time anyone undertook such activities was 2009-10 when one member of staff at Band C spent the equivalent of 1.5 days in total on trade union-related activities or duties facility time.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

House of Lords: Reform

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to engage the public in his proposals on House of Lords reform. [56170]

Mr Harper: The Government published a White Paper and draft Bill on 17 May, which will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny by a Joint Committee of both Houses. We expect this Committee will call for evidence and receive representations. The Government also welcome all contributions.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has assessed the merits of holding a referendum on options for House of Lords reform. [56172]

Mr Harper: At the last election, all three main political parties were committed to reform of the House of Lords. The Government consider they should move forward on this issue and published a White Paper and draft Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny on 17 May.

Members: Conduct

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his forthcoming legislative proposals for the recall of hon. Members from their constituencies will apply to instances of misconduct committed before the entry into force of the proposed legislation. [57017]

Mr Harper: The Government are committed to bringing forward legislation to introduce a power to recall Members of Parliament. We are currently considering what would be the fairest, most appropriate and robust procedure and we will announce the details of our proposals before the summer recess.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of compensation payments for prisoners not enfranchised if proposed changes to the law on prisoner voting are not implemented. [41336]

Mr Harper: As the Attorney-General made clear during the Commons debate on this issue on 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 526, it is very difficult to make an accurate estimate of the cost to the public purse, since we cannot know the number of prisoners that may bring a claim, nor can we be certain exactly how much compensation each prisoner might be awarded.

However, if the entire UK sentenced population in the prison system (over 70,000 prisoners) were to bring claims, and on the basis that about £1,000 to £1,500 of compensation and costs might have to be paid in each case, clearly the matter has the potential to be very costly.

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will notify the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe of *(a)* the decision of the House on and *(b)* the results of the Division on the motion on Voting by Prisoners of 10 February 2011, Votes and Proceedings, No. 115; and if he will register with (i) the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, (ii) the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and (iii) the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe on objection to the contents of press release 283(2011) issued by the Human Rights Commissioner Thomas Hammarberg. [51571]

Mr Harper: No. It is the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers that is responsible for supervising the implementation of European Court of Human Rights' judgments. The Government notified the Committee of Ministers of the outcome of the recent backbench debate on prisoner voting rights in an Information Note provided ahead of the 1,108th meeting. The Information Note is available on the Committee of Ministers' website:

https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1753877&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383

I understand that the Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Hammarberg, requested a bilateral meeting with the Secretary of State for Justice at the "High level Conference on the Future of the European Court of

Human Rights" which took place in Izmir, Turkey on 26 and 27 April 2011. At that meeting, the Secretary of State for Justice was clear that the Court must focus on truly important cases and have proper regard to the judgment of national Parliaments and courts.

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to enfranchise convicted prisoners in line with the ruling from the European Court of Human Rights. [57016]

Mr Harper: The Government asked the European Court of Human Rights to reconsider its recent judgment on prisoner voting rights (known as "Greens and MT")—and was disappointed that the request was refused. The UK has six months from the date of the judgment becoming final to bring forward legislative proposals to amend the law on prisoner voting. The Government are considering the next steps.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much each Executive agency of his Department has spent on travel by *(a)* private hire vehicles, *(b)* trains, *(c)* buses, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56079]

Mr Maude: Between May 2010 and March 2011 the Cabinet Office's Executive agency, Buying Solutions, reduced expenditure on travel by 26% (compared with the same period in 2009-10) to £870,066. During that period the agency spent £13,043 on private hire vehicles, £522,827 on trains, £541 on buses, and £115,688 on commercial air travel. The agency did not spend anything on private aircraft.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much has been spent on travel in respect of *(a)* each of his Department's Executive agencies and *(b)* the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. [56185]

Mr Maude: Between May 2010 and March 2011 the Cabinet Office's Executive agency, Buying Solutions, reduced expenditure on travel by 26% (compared with the same period in 2009-10) to £870,066. Of that total, £15,987 was incurred by the previous chief executive of the agency.

Government Departments: Correspondence

Alison McGovern: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the standard response time is for Government Departments to reply to letters from hon. Members on constituents' concerns or requests for information. [57048]

Mr Maude: The standard response target for responding to correspondence from hon. Members is 20 working days though a number of Departments have set themselves more demanding targets of 15 working days or less.

Mortality Rates

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the mortality rates of *(a)* (i) widows and (ii) widowers under the age of 35 and *(b)* the general population were in each of the last five years; [56729]

(2) what the five most frequent causes of death in *(a)* widows and *(b)* widowers under the age of 35 were in the latest period for which figures are available; [56730]

(3) what the age-standardised death rate per 100,000 men between age 40 and 69 who *(a)* smoke and *(b)* do not smoke and who were (i) married, (ii) single, (iii) divorced, (iv) widowed and (v) cohabiting was in the latest period for which figures are available; [56846]

(4) which 100 wards had the highest mortality rate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56848]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking:

1. What the mortality rates of (a) (i) widows and (ii) widowers under the age of 35 and (b) the general population were in each of the last five years. (56729)

2. What the five most frequent causes of death in (a) widows and (b) widowers under the age of 35 were in the latest period for which figures are available. (56730)

3. What the age-standardised death rate per 100,000 men between age 40 and 69 who (a) smoke and (b) do not smoke and who were (i) married, (ii) single, (iii) divorced, (iv) widowed and (v) cohabiting was in the latest period for which figures are available. (56846)

4. Which 100 wards had the highest mortality rate in the latest period for which figures are available. (56848)

Table 1(a) attached provides the number of deaths, mid-year population estimates and age-specific mortality rates for widowed men and women aged under 35, in England and Wales, for 2005 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Table 1(b) attached provides the age-standardised mortality rates for males and females of all ages, in England and Wales, for 2005 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Age-standardised rates are standardised to the European Standard Population and they are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages. It is ONS policy not to calculate age-standardised rates where there are less than 10 deaths in a group, as standardised rates based on small numbers of events are susceptible to inaccurate interpretation. Therefore age-specific rates have been provided in Table 1(a).

Information on the marital status of the deceased is supplied at death registration in confidence, under the Population (Statistics) Acts. Due to the small numbers of deaths of widowed men and women aged under 35, information on frequently recorded causes of death have not be provided, in line with the ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics.

Table 2 attached provides the age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, for men aged between 40 and 69 who were (i) married (ii) single, (iii) divorced and (iv) widowed, in England and Wales, for the year 2009 (the latest year available).

It is not possible to provide mortality rates for people who smoke (3a) and do not smoke (3b) or people who are cohabiting (3v), as information on the deceased's smoking status and living arrangements is not collected at death registration.

Table 3 provides the 100 wards which had the highest mortality rates, in England and Wales, for 2009 (the latest year available). A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age, cause, marital status, and place of death are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096

Table 1a: Number of deaths, mid-year population estimates and age-specific mortality rates for widowed men and women aged under 35, England and Wales, 2005-09[1,2,3,4]

Rate per 100,000 population

	Male			*Female*		
	Deaths	*Population*	*Rate*	*Deaths*	*Population*	*Rate*
2005	3	3,700	81	6	8,700	69
2006	5	3,500	143	8	8,200	98
2007	4	3,300	121	11	7,600	145
2008	4	3,200	125	14	7,300	192
2009	3	3,100	97	7	7,000	100

[1] Population estimates and deaths for widowed men and women exclude men and women who were surviving civil partners.

[2] Populations estimates for widowed men and women are rounded to the nearest 100 and include figures for those who have married abroad.

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 1b: Age-standardised mortality rates for males and females, in England and Wales, 2005-09[1,2,3,4]

Rate per 100,000 population

	Male			*Female*		
		95% confidence intervals			*95% confidence intervals*	
	Rate	*Lower limit*	*Upper limit*	*Rate*	*Lower limit*	*Upper limit*
2005	738	735	741	519	517	521
2006	713	710	715	499	497	501
2007	695	692	698	492	490	494
2008	685	683	688	490	488	492
2009	657	655	660	463	461	465

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in 2009.

Table 2: Age-standardised mortality rates for men aged 40 to 69 by marital status, England and Wales, 2009[1,2,3,4,5]

Rate per 100,000 population

		95% confidence intervals	
Marital status	*Rate*	*Lower limit*	*Upper limit*
Single	1,029	1,011	1,047
Married	443	438	448
Divorced	881	865	897
Widowed	916	882	950

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Mortality rates for men in current or dissolved civil partnerships or who are surviving civil partners are not given as population estimates are not available.

[4] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in 2009.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56758]

Gregory Barker: DECC Commissions significant volumes of research and data collection. DECC will be publishing a Science and Innovation Strategy in July that will set out our approach to evidence collection and research, and this document will provide information on science research projects.

DECC conducts a number of statistical surveys and an annual report that list these is published by the Government Statistical Service at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=12732

Since the last publication of this report, DECC has been reviewing the data collection for local authorities carbon emissions and has also stopped the data collection for the local authority fuel poverty indicator (which has been replaced by central modelling for all LAs by DECC). DECC statistics are available on the DECC website at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/statistics.aspx

Energy: Housing

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to ensure that vulnerable elderly people are able to participate in the Green Deal scheme. [57061]

Gregory Barker: In recognition that some households may need additional support to benefit from energy efficiency improvements available through the Green Deal, we are developing an energy company obligation that will focus on the needs of the poor and vulnerable, including the elderly in those groups.

Energy: Prices

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to page 82 of the Plan for Growth, what timetable his Department has set for the publication of a framework to cap the effects of levy-funded support on energy bills. [57201]

Gregory Barker: The Control Framework for DECC levy-funded spending referred to on page 82 of the Plan for Growth has already been published and is available on HM Treasury's website:

http://hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_controlframework_decc.htm

Energy: Sales

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on implementing Ofgem's recent recommendation in its retail market review that all telesale approaches made to micro-businesses should be recorded. [56642]

Charles Hendry: We support the proposals set out by Ofgem in its recent report on the retail market review. It is open to Ofgem to consider and implement any changes in the regulation of the market to ensure it works in the interests of consumers. This includes the introduction of new rules governing telephone sales activities in the micro-business sector.

Energy: Telecommunications

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to ban the use of roll-over energy contracts in the telecommunications market. [56643]

Charles Hendry: As the independent regulator, it is for Ofgem to consider the need for additional regulatory protection in the retail supply market. In its recent Retail Market Review, Ofgem proposed to prevent suppliers automatically rolling customers on to a new fixed term product without their express consent and asked for consultation responses by 1 June 2011. Details of the proposal are available at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/Compet/Documents1/Decision_letter_FINAL.pdf

Fuels: Prices

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential long-term effect on global fuel prices of trends in the economies of *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China. [56403]

Charles Hendry: The Department of Energy and Climate Change publishes a range of scenarios for oil, gas and coal price assumptions for the period up to 2030, which are used in the Department's analytical work. The analysis to produce these scenarios has considered the impact of global economic growth. The range of fuel prices produced illustrates the high level of uncertainty around future price drivers such as global economic growth rates. The higher fuel price scenarios capture the impact of strong growth in emerging economies.

These assumptions can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/statistics/projections/file51365.pdf

Oil: Prices

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 582W, on fuel: prices, what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects of speculation on oil prices following recent movements in the price of oil. [56870]

Charles Hendry: The Government have not made any further assessment on the potential effects of speculation on oil prices following the recent oil price movements, beyond the assessment in the answer I gave on 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 582W.

Radioactive Waste

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 693-94W, on radioactive waste, what proportion of the high level waste (HLW) inventory is *(a)* high activity liquor and *(b)* vitrified HLW; what quantities of HLW and other radioactive waste streams he estimates will be created from the spent fuel from a possible future new build programme; and if he will provide the radiological value for each of the waste volume totals listed in his reply. [56134]

Charles Hendry: High Level Waste is a by-product from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel and arises in the UK initially as a radioactive liquid. Sellafield Ltd continues to use vitrification technology to condition liquid HLW into a form that can be passively stored for many decades until transported to a Geological Disposal Facility. The total radioactive content for all HLW in stock is about 80,000,000 TBq which is about 95% of the total radioactive content of all wastes in the UK Radioactive Waste Inventory. Approximately 50% of the total HLW inventory in stock has been conditioned.

Government are not currently expecting any proposals to reprocess spent fuel from new nuclear power stations and has stated that new nuclear power stations should proceed on the basis that spent fuel will not be reprocessed. Spent fuel is expected to be stored until it can be disposed of. Should proposals for new build reprocessing come forward in the future, they would need to be considered on their merits at the time and the Government would expect to consult on them.

Small amounts of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW)/Low Level Waste (LLW) will be created from handling new build spent fuel but these are expected to be minimal and have not been calculated separately from overall ILW and LLW estimates.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the quantities of reprocessing waste that have been created at Sellafield and Dounreay reprocessing and waste treatment plants. [57100]

Charles Hendry: The 2010 UK Radioactive Waste Inventory (UKRWI) is available online at:

www.nda.gov.uk/ukinventory/

and describes stocks of radioactive waste and radioactive materials held in the UK at 1 April 2010 as well as the predicted arisings from the operation and decommissioning of existing nuclear installations.

It is not possible to specifically identify wastes that have arisen solely from reprocessing activities from the process to compile the 2010 UKRWI. To identify this subset of wastes would require the site operators to perform a further detailed analysis which would have a considerable financial cost. However the latest information, as reported in the 2010 UKRWI, shows the total volume of radioactive waste in stock on 1 April 2010 at Sellafield and Dounreay was:

Location	*Waste type*	*Waste volume at 1 April 2010 (cubic metres)*
Dounreay	ILW	4,090
	LLW	9,360
Sellafield (Sellafield Ltd)	HLW	1,620
	ILW	66,500
	LLW	6,310

These figures represent stored waste that has arisen from all activities on the sites, including arisings from nuclear power station operations and decommissioning, reprocessing, defence and R&D activities. The figures do not include waste that has already been disposed of or any waste that has been repatriated to overseas customers.

Wind Power: Seas and Oceans

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what guidance his Department and its predecessors issued on planning consents for offshore wind farms from 2003 to 2007. [57086]

Charles Hendry: In 2004 the then Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) issued general guidance on the offshore wind farm consents process. A copy of the guidance can be found at:

https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/EIP/pages/files/file22990.pdf

In 2005, the DTI issued two sets of guidance connected to the environmental impact assessment of offshore wind farms dealing with seascape and visual impact (URN 05/1583) and a methodology for the assessing the marine navigation safety risks (URN 05/1948). Both publications can be obtained from DECC publications at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/publications/

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consideration he has given to the introduction of new safety measures for helicopters operating in Afghanistan; [56189]

(2) what recent reviews his Department has undertaken of the adequacy of safety measures for helicopters operating in Afghanistan. [56190]

Peter Luff: The safety of our helicopters is continuously reviewed. Threats to safety are identified through regular safety inspections, a joint air safety assurance audit was carried out on the task force joint aviation group in February, and discussions between the front-line helicopter users, the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff for Capability's Staff, and Defence Equipment and Support. These threats are assessed and where possible mitigation is then put in place through new equipment, training, tactics or procedures to ensure that the risk to life cannot practically be reduced further. The Department's aviation safety management systems are subject to formal audit by the Military Aviation Authority.

As a result of this process, our helicopter fleets have been significantly enhanced to meet the demands of operations in Afghanistan. Investment continues to improve our helicopters' protection against attack, to make landings in Afghanistan's dusty conditions safer, to improve the safety of helicopter fuel systems and to provide better situational awareness for aircrew.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel served at least one tour in Afghanistan between 2001 and the most recent date for which figures are available. [56336]

Nick Harvey: As at 31 March 2011, 103,260 past and present members of the UK armed forces have been identified as having deployed to Afghanistan since 2001. This figure does not include personnel who deployed to Afghanistan between the periods 1 January 2003 and 14 October 2005 for which data are not available.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what specialist training UK armed forces receive on the UK's commitment to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security prior to deployment to Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [56389]

Nick Harvey: Though UK armed forces personnel do not receive specific training on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325 prior to the deployment in Afghanistan, all personnel deployed to any operational theatre will undertake, as part of their pre-deployment preparation, law of armed conflict training. This covers issues relevant to UNSCR 1325, such as the status of protected persons including women and children, and the humane treatment of captured persons. Pre-deployment training will also highlight the cultural sensitivities for that country.

In November 2010, the UK published a revised action plan on UNSCR 1325 following a review by the Ministry of Defence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development. The plan includes a commitment to the development and delivery of pre-deployment training on cultural (including gender) awareness for the UK armed forces. The Ministry of Defence is currently developing such training.

Air Force: Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 21-22WS, on the armed forces redundancy process, how many service personnel he expects to be made redundant from the Royal Air Force *(a)* in each region, *(b)* on each base and *(c)* at each rank. [44439]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 639W.

Aircraft Carriers

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the inclusion of *(a)* steam catapults and arrestor hooks and *(b)* electromagnetic propulsion units in the design specification of a new aircraft carrier. [56500]

Peter Luff: As announced in the strategic defence and security review on 19 October 2010, we will fit one of the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers with catapults and arrestor gear to operate the more capable carrier variant joint strike fighter.

Investigations into the aircraft launch and recovery systems—and a wide range of other factors—are under way. At this stage, the US Electro-Magnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) catapult and the US Advanced Arrestor Gear (AAG) recovery system appears to be the most promising solution, though we have not ruled out steam catapults or MK7 arrestor gear.

We currently expect to take firm decisions on the overall conversion strategy in late 2012.

Armed Forces Day

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government the waiving of fees by local authorities for the closure of roads for events to mark Armed Forces Day. [56799]

Peter Luff: The closure of roads and the fees involved are a matter for local authorities. Applications for roads to be closed or for the fees for doing so to be waived should be made directly to the local authority concerned. However, we strongly urge that the public, both as individuals and groups, as well as local authorities, take the opportunity on 25 June 2011 to show their support for the men and women of the armed forces, both current and former, who rise to the very difficult challenge of maintaining the defence of the realm.

Armed Forces: Conditions of Employment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 25-42, on armed forces covenant, how increased council tax relief for military personnel serving on operations overseas will be funded. [56651]

Peter Luff: The detailed arrangements for funding the increase in council tax relief have yet to be finalised.

EU Law

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the provisions of Directive 2009/81/EC on the UK defence industry; and if he will make a statement; [55486]

(2) when he plans to transpose Directive 2009/81/EC into UK law; [55487]

(3) from which provisions of Directive 2009/81/EC the UK is exempt. [55520]

Peter Luff: An assessment of the impacts of the provisions of directive 2009/81/EC was published during both public consultations on implementing the directive, and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) sought specific advice on its impacts, including the effects on industry. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House. A final assessment is being prepared as a result of comments received.

The MOD plans to transpose directive 2009/81/EC into UK law on 21 August 2011, as required.

The UK is not exempt from any of the provisions of directive 2009/81/EC. However, the directive does include a number of exemptions for specific procurements which will be considered on a case-by-case basis. These include article 346—known as the "warlike store exemption"—that we can use when we need to put measures in place to protect our essential security interests as well as a number of other exclusions at articles 12 and 13.

Falkland Islands: Military Aircraft

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many quick reaction alert activations have taken place in the Falkland Islands in the last 12 months; and how many aircraft *(a)* took part and *(b)* were airborne within the alert time in each such case. [56819]

Nick Harvey: In the last 12 months there have been six quick reaction alert activations in the Falkland Islands. These have involved between one and two aircraft and on each occasion the aircraft were airborne within the prescribed alert time.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft for which his Department is responsible are permanently based in the Falkland Islands. [56821]

Nick Harvey: The following table sets out the aircraft which British Forces South Atlantic Islands has in its permanent establishment:

Aircraft type	*Number*
Hercules C-130J	1
Typhoon FGR4	4
VC-10K	1
Sea King HAR3	2
Sikorsky S61N	2

The Sikorsky aircraft are operated by Brintel. In addition, British forces in the South Atlantic have command of the helicopter operating from the frigate or destroyer assigned to the Atlantic Patrol Task (South).

Improvised Explosive Devices

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the £67 million of additional funding for countering improvised explosive devices announced by the Prime Minister on 10 June 2010, what new capabilities *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be delivered as a result of that funding. [56829]

Peter Luff: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 207W, by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence.

Joint Strike Fighter Programme

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where joint combat aircraft *(a)* training, *(b)* maintenance, *(c)* overhauls and *(d)* logistic systems are being developed; and at what cost to the public purse in each such case. [56564]

Peter Luff: To meet the joint combat aircraft requirement, we are collaboratively developing a joint strike fighter air system with the US and other international partners, having contributed £1.555 billion to the systems development and demonstration (SDD) phase of the programme, so far. SDD not only develops the aircraft, but also the training system, maintenance and overhaul requirements and associated logistic and information systems.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the number of jobs the joint combat aircraft programme will provide over its lifetime in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each partner nation. [56565]

Peter Luff: The Department has not made an estimate of the number of jobs that the joint strike fighter (JSF) programme will provide throughout its life. We do not have any information as to the number of jobs which may be created in other participant nations. However, in the production phase, British companies secured some 15% of the JSF industrial programme estimated at around £35 billion.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much has been spent in the *(a)* system design and development phase and *(b)* production, sustainment and follow-on development phase of the Joint Strike Fighter programme in each year to date; [56864]

(2) what the budget allocation is for the system design and development phase of the Joint Strike Fighter programme; [56865]

(3) whether any financial liabilities remain for the system design and development phase of the Joint Strike Fighter programme; [56866]

(4) how much funding his Department expects to allocate to the production, sustainment and follow-on development phase of the Joint Strike Fighter programme in each of the next four years. [56867]

Peter Luff: To meet the Joint Combat Aircraft requirement we are collaboratively developing a Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) air system with the US and other international partners through the JSF Systems Development and Demonstration (SDD) phase.

The total UK expenditure to date on the SDD phase of JSF is £1,555 million with a final forecasted outturn of the SSD phase of £1,827 million, which is within our formal approval of £2,034 million. Similarly, the total UK spend to date on the Production, Sustainment and Follow-on Development (PSFD) phase is £270 million.

The total cost of the production, sustainment and follow-on development will be determined when the main investment decision point is made. The Ministry of Defence does not publish estimates of the costs of programmes before this point as to do so would undermine our commercial position.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the air strike during which it was reported that Saif al-Arab al-Gaddafi was killed was carried out by British forces. [56499]

Nick Harvey: It is NATO policy not to release details of which nations have carried out specific air strikes against Gaddafi's forces.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Sentinel R1 surveillance aircraft have transferred from Afghanistan to Libya in the last 12 months; and for what length of time in each such case. [56820]

Nick Harvey: No Sentinel R1 aircraft have transferred from Afghanistan to support operations in Libya.

Nuclear Weapons

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on *(a)* nuclear proliferation and *(b)* the militarisation of space. [56678]

Nick Harvey: The UK is committed to non-proliferation under the terms of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the cornerstone of the international security architecture. We continue to call on all states that have not yet done so to accede to the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon states.

The UK supports the principle of free access to and use of outer space in accordance with the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the review of alternatives to the nuclear deterrent to be completed. [57089]

Nick Harvey: The review is expected to take around 18 months to complete.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the National Security Council will have a formal role in the review of alternatives to the nuclear deterrent. [57090]

Nick Harvey: As set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (Cm7948), the National Security Council approved the Trident value for money study and decided to proceed with the renewal of Trident and the submarine replacement programme. The aim of the review is to fulfil the coalition programme for Government by assisting the Liberal Democrats to make the case for alternatives: the National Security Council will not have a formal role in the review.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to whom the review of alternatives to the nuclear deterrent will report. [57091]

Nick Harvey: I will oversee the study and it will report jointly to the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of the cost of the review of alternatives to the nuclear deterrent will be met by *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* his Department. [57092]

Nick Harvey: Costs will be met from within existing departmental budgets. It is too early to predict how much will fall to the Cabinet Office and how much to the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of staff he plans to allocate to his review of alternatives to the nuclear deterrent; and what budget he plans to allocate to the review. [57093]

Nick Harvey: The study will be led by a senior civil servant and a dedicated project manager in the Cabinet Office. They will draw together inputs from a range of experts in the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Defence and other Departments. Costs will be met from within existing departmental budgets.

Special Air Service

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his Department's policy is on commenting on matters relating to the Special Air Service; [56696]

(2) what his Department's policy is on recruitment to the Special Air Service. [56777]

Nick Harvey: It is the longstanding policy of this and previous Administrations not ordinarily to comment on matters concerning UK special forces.

Trident Submarines: Safety

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the safety performance in relation to accidents involving a loss of coolant of the proposed reactors for future Trident submariners. [55422]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1090-91W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria will be used when making allocations from the New Homes Bonus to *(a)* eco-towns and *(b)* other forms of development. [56380]

Grant Shapps: The New Homes Bonus is designed to incentivise all increases in housing supply, including new homes, conversions and empty properties brought back into use. It is for local authorities and their communities to decide the type of homes they want and the shape of future development, including proposals for eco-towns.

For all developments, the New Homes Bonus is based on the council tax from the net increase in effective housing stock with a further enhancement of £350 for affordable homes and will be paid for the following six years. Further details of the calculation are published in the New Homes Bonus—Final Scheme Design on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus

Allotments

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the implications of the provisions of the Localism Bill for the future provision of allotments by local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [56239]

Greg Clark: The Localism Bill provides important new opportunities for communities to expand provision of allotments; the number of which have fallen by 17%

since 1996 against a rise in waiting list numbers from four people waiting for every 100 plots in 1996 to 57 per 100 plots last year.

There are a number of measures in the Localism Bill that will enable local people who are interested in food growing and cultivation to play a bigger role in planning, designing, managing and maintaining community green spaces for this purpose.

New "Neighbourhood Planning" provisions in the Bill will provide communities with a means to boost the amount of space for food growing with powers to protect existing allotments and identify new plots. A referendum at the end of the process ensures communities have the final say on whether a neighbourhood development plan or development order comes into force in their area. 17 communities are currently trialling Neighbourhood Planning, including in Bermondsey where the community is looking at open spaces around council estates being used to provide allotments as part of their neighbourhood plan.

The "Community Right to Challenge" will give voluntary and community groups the right to express an interest in taking over the running of a local authority service. This will make it easier for local groups with good ideas to put them forward and drive improvement in local services, which will include the management of allotments.

Through the "Community Right to Buy" provisions in the Bill, the Department is seeking to require local authorities, to maintain a list of land and buildings identified by local people as assets that are of value to them and to give community groups a fair chance to prepare a bid and secure the funding to buy them if they come up for sale on the open market. These facilities could include green spaces from community gardens and parks, to orchards and allotments, and are not restricted to publicly owned land.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that people on low incomes are not excluded from renting allotments from their local authorities due to the level of charges; and if he will make a statement. [56240]

Robert Neill: Local authorities are expected to abide by the relevant legislation, namely section 10 of the Allotments Act 1950, which states that an allotment must be let at a rent that a tenant may reasonably be expected to pay.

Advice on the considerations relevant to the setting of rents is set out in section 4 of "Allotments: A plotholders Guide", available from the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens' website using the following link:

www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari

Guidance is also available for local authorities on managing allotment costs in "A Place to Grow"; downloadable from the LGA website at

www.lga.gov.uk

Common Land

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of town or village green applications on rates of construction of new affordable housing; and if he will make a statement; [56635]

(2) what recent representations he has received on town or village green applications; and if he will make a statement. [56636]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

I am aware of the difficulties which some applications to register new town or village greens can cause, particularly where an application is made in response to advanced plans for development of a site, but DEFRA has made no specific assessment of the effects of registration applications on the provision of affordable housing. I also appreciate the importance local communities can place on both open space and new development, and that there has to be confidence that the relevant decision-making processes are working coherently in the interests of the community as a whole.

I have received representations about the registration system from a number of Members and from others, including in relation to affordable housing, and am considering whether changes to the greens registration system are required. I hope to make an announcement about our plans in the near future.

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many town and village green applications were made in each of the last five years; what proportion of applications were successful in each such year; what the average length of time taken was to process an application in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [56711]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

Registers of town or village greens are held by local authorities, and data on registration activity are not reported to Government. Surveys of registration activity were carried out in late 2007 and late 2009, and the following data are estimated by scaling up for non-responding authorities. Values relate to the number of applications received or determined (as the case may be) in the specified year, and do not indicate the outcome relating to applications received in a particular year. Data collected in 2007 on the time taken to process similar applications under the Commons Registration Act 1965 showed an average period of 16 months among those authorities providing an answer.

Estimated number of greens applications in England, 2005 to September 2009

	Number of green applications			
	In year	*Determined*[1]	*Granted*	*Rejected*
2009 (to end September)	139	77	17	79
2008	196	73	26	52
2007[2]	143	44	18	35
2006	103	24	8	16
2005	69	48	30	22

[1] Values in this column should equal the sum of the following two columns. However, there are various discrepancies, probably owing to applications considered over several years being assigned to the wrong year.

[2] The criteria for application were amended with effect from April 2007, by the implementation of section 15 of the 2006 Act. These data include applications under both the 1965 and 2006 Acts.

Energy Performance Certificates

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 147W, on energy performance certificates, what his policy is on requiring all domestic properties in England to have an energy performance certificate. [57018]

Andrew Stunell: All domestic properties in England and Wales are required to have an energy performance certificate on the sale, rent or construction of a building. Since 2007 over 6.2 million energy performance certificates have been produced for dwellings.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firemen there are per head of population. [56485]

Robert Neill: The latest numbers of firefighters per head of population in England are shown in the table:

Number of firefighters at 31 March 2010. England

	Headcount	*Headcount per 1,000 heads of population*[1]
Whole-time	29,880	0.58
Retained duty system	14,425	0.28
Total firefighters	44,305	0.86

[1] Calculation based on population for England of 51.8 million

Source:

"Fire and Rescue Service Operational Statistics", Department for Communities and Local Government, and Office for National Statistics Mid-year Population Estimates

Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of households likely to make homelessness applications as a consequence of the overall benefit cap in the 12 months following its introduction. [57076]

Grant Shapps: The Government estimate of the number of homelessness applications as a consequence of the overall benefit cap is as contained in the DWP Impact Assessment. The link to the DWP Impact Assessment can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/household-benefit-cap-wr2011-ia.pdf

Housing: Environment Protection

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether strategic environmental assessments will apply to neighbourhood plans; and if he will make a statement. [52762]

Greg Clark: A neighbourhood development plan once adopted by the local planning authority will form part of the statutory development plan. If it contains policies that are likely to have significant environmental effects it could trigger the strategic environmental assessment directive.

Local Government: Pensions

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the likely change in the number of members opting out of the Local Government Pension Scheme as a result of the increase in employee contributions. [56802]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Wallasey (Ms Eagle) on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 539-40W.

Mayors

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what powers local authorities in areas where a mayor is to be directly elected will have to replace serving shadow mayors appointed before the first direct election for mayor; [56668]

(2) on what date he expects to appoint shadow mayors in each city in England where directly-elected mayors are to be introduced. [56687]

Robert Neill: The Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell), indicated to the House at Report stage of the Localism Bill that we would listen carefully to the points made on the mayoral provisions in the Bill, particularly on such issues as shadow mayors. We are now reflecting on the comments we have heard and intend to come back to these matters when the Bill is considered in the other place.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when he expects cities which vote in favour of introducing directly-elected mayors in May 2012 will hold the first such elections; [56670]

(2) what his policy is on provisions to allow local authorities with a shadow mayor to hold direct elections for an elected mayor before May 2013. [56719]

Robert Neill: Our expectation is that where there is a vote in favour of introducing a directly-elected mayor at a referendum, the first mayoral election will be held shortly thereafter.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he plans to make available to local authorities with directly-elected mayors on working relationships with directly-elected police and justice commissioners. [56671]

Robert Neill: It will be for the directly-elected mayor and directly-elected police and crime commissioner for an area to develop and maintain an effective working relationship on which they will be accountable to their local electorates. It is already the case that local authorities and police authorities work together on issues like local policing, CCTV and licensing.

Planning

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to increase involvement in the planning process of communities which live in close proximity to proposed developments but which are in the development envelope of another local authority. [56709]

Robert Neill: Local authorities are already required to publicise planning applications to local communities in a range of ways. Details of these requirements are set out in article 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010.

Clause 102 of the Localism Bill introduces a new requirement for applicants for certain types of development to consult the local community in advance of submitting a planning application, and to have regard to any views raised.

Both statutory provisions apply where a development is close to the boundary of another local authority.

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the presumption in favour of development proposed in the Plan for Growth. [56950]

Robert Neill: Ministers are in discussion about the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with a view to publishing a draft shortly.

Sky Lanterns: Safety

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the potential fire risk arising from the use of Chinese lanterns. [57140]

Robert Neill: Fire and rescue incident records show these products resulted in 125 incidents attended in 2010-11, none of which caused substantial damage. This compares to over 100,000 outdoor fire incidents attended by fire and rescue services each year.

JUSTICE

Aarhus Convention

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what resources his Department has allocated to implementation of the provisions of the Aarhus convention. [56425]

Mr Djanogly: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is the lead Government Department on the implementation of the Aarhus convention. As with similar initiatives, no dedicated resources have been allocated by the Ministry of Justice to this area. Instead actions arising out of the implementation of the convention affecting this Department are handled by relevant officials as part of their normal business.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effects of Lord Justice Jackson's proposals on civil litigation costs on the UK's compliance with the terms of the *(a)* Aarhus convention and *(b)* Ruggie mandate. [56426]

Mr Djanogly: 'Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response' was published on 29 March 2011, setting out the way forward on the proposals following full consultation. An updated impact assessment was published alongside this response.

Corruption

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 453W, on corruption, what tasks he plans to complete in his role as the UK's international anti-corruption champion during the remainder of 2011. [56413]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: My first priority as champion, and focus this year, has been to ensure the effective implementation of the Bribery Act 2010, which I have announced will be commenced on 1 July this year. In the short term, raising awareness of the Act overseas to ensure that the trading reputation of UK businesses is enhanced is a clear priority.

I am now also considering other areas of international anti-corruption and with Ministers and officials I have been exploring the focus of UK anti-corruption activity and, in particular, the focus of my efforts as champion.

I am undertaking bilateral meetings with foreign Government Ministers and judges to encourage and offer support to them to raise anti-corruption standards in their own countries. I have already discussed this with a number of Ministers and justice office holders in Romania, Slovenia and Turkey and will continue to have these discussions with counterparts in the European Union, candidate and neighbourhood countries. I visited Croatia in April to discuss progress towards accession to the European Union, of which implementation of anti-corruption measures is key. My Department will continue to monitor and encourage improvements in anti-corruption standards in EU candidate and neighbourhood countries. As part of the Memorandum of Understanding I have signed between the UK and the Russian Federation, we will work together to tackle corruption, with the aim of strengthening stable trade between our two countries.

I will have strategic oversight of the peer evaluations which the UK will undergo in June and July by the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and UN Convention Against Corruption to assess compliance with these international standards.

County Courts: Judgments

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many county court judgments have been awarded to individuals against financial institutions in each of the last three years; and how many remain to be enforced after judgment. [56654]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not hold figures centrally on the number of county court judgments awarded to individuals against financial institutions.

The administrative computer systems in the county courts contain the records of all county court judgments made and the names of judgment creditors and judgment debtors involved in these. However the judgment creditor names have not been classified according to whether they are individuals or otherwise and the judgment debtor names have not been classified according to whether they are financial institutions or otherwise. These classifications could be obtained through the manual examination of the electronic records only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around his Department's premises; and how much such cameras *(a)* cost to install and *(b)* cost to operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56839]

Mr Blunt: In 2010-11, the latest period for which figures are available, there were 192 CCTV cameras installed in the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) central London administrative estate and the United Kingdom Supreme Court. It is not possible to provide information on their installation costs as CCTV systems are usually installed as part of a wider refurbishment, and in most cases many years ago. The average annual cost of maintaining these cameras is £112 each. It is not possible to disaggregate other costs related to their operation.

Additionally, in public sector prisons in England and Wales the number of systems rather than individual cameras is recorded. The number of cameras in each system will vary depending on the category of prison. There are 1,300 CCTV systems. It is not possible to disaggregate their installation and operating costs.

Obtaining information from other MOJ agencies, arm's length bodies and contracted prisons would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56753]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: We regularly review our research and collection of data. Therefore the content of the work changes in consultation with stakeholders and with regards to costs, quality, need and burden. We do very few longitudinal projects in the sense of the project tracking the same respondents over a period of time. Details of external social research projects commissioned, terminated or amended by the Department since May 2010 are set out in Table 1. It also shows details of data collections. A number of these data collections are a by-product of existing management information systems and therefore require minimal resource to collect.

Table 1: Longitudinal, research and data collections initiated, terminated and amended in last 12 months

Project	*A Longitudinal B(i) other research B(ii) other collection of data*	*(A) initiated (B) terminated (C) amended*
The Social Impact Bond at Peterborough(qualitative evaluation)	B(i)	A
The Social Impact Bond at Peterborough(Independent Assessor)	B(i)	A
Evaluation of Mandatory Polygraph Pilots	B(i)	C
Decision process for indeterminate sentence, IPP and life sentences at parole reviews: IPP and Lifers casefile database	B(i)	A
Evaluation of Sex Offender Treatment Programme	B(i)	A
SPCR Missing Data Project	B(i)	A
Police and CPS Casefile Analysis	B(i)	A
Parole Board case file analysis	B(i)	A
HM Courts Service Court User Survey	B(i)	B
Witness and Victim Experience Survey	B(i)	B
Police cautions (including reprimands and final warnings)	B(ii)	B

Notes:
1. Terminated means a contract or data collection that was ended early with original planned milestones not completed.
2. Amended means an change to the contract (excluding those associated only with timing of milestones).

Table 2 shows research and data collections that are on-going and have not been amended in the last 12 months.

Table 2: On-going research and data collections not amended in last 12 months

Project	*A longitudinal B(i) other Research B(ii) other data collection*
Offender Management Community Cohort Study.	A
Implementation Evaluation of Victim Support's Homicide Service	B(i)
Strengths and Skills of the Judiciary in the Magistrates' Courts of England and Wales	B(i)
Understanding MOJ customers	B(i)
Integrated Alternatives to Custody: A process evaluation and outcome evaluation feasibility study in IAC pilot areas	B(i)

Table 2: On-going research and data collections not amended in last 12 months

Project	*A longitudinal B(i) other Research B(ii) other data collection*
Together Women outcome evaluation	B(i)
CREST—Crown Court data	B(ii)
LIBRA—Magistrates court data	B(ii)
Time Intervals Survey of Criminal Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts	B(ii)
Manual returns to HMCS Reporting Database	B(ii)
CaseMan—Civil courts	B(ii)
PCOL—Possession Claims Online	B(ii)
FamilyMan—Family courts	B(ii)
Tribunals service activity statistics	B(ii)
High Court, Appellate Courts and other judicial data for official statistics	B(ii)
Police National Computer data	B(ii)
Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs)	B(ii)
Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)	B(ii)
Failure to Appear warrants (FTAs)	B(ii)
Coroners Statistics	B(ii)
Freedom of Information Statistics	B(ii)

Offenders

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders in the prison estate *(a)* ran away from home as a child, *(b)* were taken into care as a child, *(c)* were excluded from school as a child, *(d)* were unemployed before prison, *(e)* suffer from two or more mental disorders, *(f)* had a drug abuse problem prior to their imprisonment and *(e)* had an alcohol problem prior to their imprisonment. [56459]

Mr Blunt: A representative sample of 1,435 reception prisoners from Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction (SPCR), a study of adult prisoners sentenced to between one month and four years in prison in 2005 and 2006, self-reported the following:

24% were taken into care as a child;

42% were expelled or permanently excluded from school (63% were temporarily excluded);

68% were not in paid employment (excluding casual or cash-in-hand work) in the four weeks before custody;

17% received treatment/counselling for a mental health or emotional problem in the 12 months before custody and 20% reported they needed help for a mental health or emotional problem at the time of the interview;

81% had used drugs at some point prior to custody;

22% had drunk alcohol every day in the four weeks prior to custody.

Prisoners were not asked whether they had run away from home as a child.

Offenders: Bank Services

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the number of offenders leaving prison who have a bank account. [56460]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of offenders leaving prison who have a bank account is not routinely collected. A survey by the Legal Service Research Centre in 2007 reported that 40% of people in prison surveyed had no current account or other financial products. An evaluation by Liverpool John Moores University in 2008 found that 69% of prisoners at one prison had no bank account.

We recognise that access to bank accounts and other basic financial services can positively contribute to the rehabilitation of prisoners and their resettlement into society, and we are working closely across Departments and with banks to increase provision.

Prisoners on Remand

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were held on remand for *(a)* 12 to 24 months, *(b)* 24 to 60 months and *(c)* over 60 months in each year since 2007 for which figures are available. [56791]

Mr Blunt: Data are not held centrally on the length of time each individual prisoner spends on remand. However, using the data held, it is possible to estimate the average time on remand which is between eight and nine weeks.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* National Offender Management Service and *(b)* Prison Service staff in each prison establishment were treated for injuries sustained as a result of assaults by offenders in each year since 2007 for which figures are available. [56789]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not record data in the requested form. However, NOMS does record and publish statistics on assaults on staff which include assaults on prison officers. The statistics show the number of incidents in which staff have been involved, but do not include the number of individual injuries received by staff or the treatment they received. They do include figures for assaults by type of injury received. Figures for staff and prisoner injuries have been collated in the published statistics.

Figures for assaults on staff broken down by establishment can be found in the published Ministry of Justice Safety in Custody statistics at the following link.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/safety-in-custody.htm

Statistics for 2010 are not yet available. The Safety in Custody statistics for 2010 are due to be published on the Ministry of Justice website at the end of July.

Prisons: Manpower

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time diversity officers were employed at each prison establishment in the latest period for which figures are available. [56427]

Mr Blunt: Prison establishments employ staff with specialist responsibilities around equality and diversity issues with a variety of job titles, such as race equality officer and disability liaison officer, as well as diversity officer. In the period 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011 such staff spent an average of 77 hours each week per establishment working on equality and diversity issues. 124 prisons reported that an average of 35 or more hours per week was spent on these issues. Information on the number of staff that work full-time on these issues is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost by contacting each establishment.

Prisons: Repairs and Maintenance

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons will be put out to maintenance and operation tender in (i) 2012, (ii) 2013, (iii) 2014 and (iv) 2015. [56461]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is currently developing the Offender Services Competition Strategy in line with commitments in the Breaking the Cycle Green Paper and the Ministry of Justice Business Plan. The strategy will set out how competition will be used within Offender Services and outline a timetable for competition in this period.

Prisons: Sexuality

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison diversity officers trained in the handling of issues on sexual orientation there were in the latest period for which figures are available. [56428]

Mr Blunt: Information about specific training attended by prison officers is not available centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost by contacting each establishment. Every prison has a manager with lead responsibility for equalities issues, and the publication "A guide to working with lesbian, gay and bisexual offenders in custody", produced by NACRO, has been distributed to all prison establishments.

Prisons: Training

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of setting minimum training standards for prisons working jointly with prisoners, their children and families; and if he will make a statement. [56374]

Mr Blunt: NOMS already has training standards in place for all its central training provision through the use of National Occupational Standards in Custodial Care. The importance of prison officers working with prisoners, their children and families is reflected in their initial training and other training they receive throughout their career as part of their continuing professional development.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours of prison officers' initial training consists of training on working jointly with prisoners, their children and families; and if he will make a statement. [56375]

Mr Blunt: Initial training for newly recruited prison officers provides officers with an understanding of the importance of working effectively with prisoners and their families. There are two sessions, totalling three hours, which focus specifically on working jointly with prisoners, their children and families.

Rape: Research

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish the research report on the frequency of false allegations of rape in response to the recommendations of the Stern Review; and who is undertaking the research for the report. [56901]

Mr Blunt: An analysis of police and CPS casefiles, relating to cases proceeded against for serious sexual and violent offences, is being undertaken by TNS-BMRB following a competitive tender through the MOJ Research Framework. The project—which will explore further the evidence for false allegations of rape—is under way, and a report of the findings will be published in accordance with the Government Social Research Publication Guidelines when it is ready.

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/GSR%20Publication%20Guidance%20-%2029%20Jan%202010_tcm6-35775.pdf

Risley Prison: Suicide

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce the number of suicides at HMP Risley; and if he will make a statement. [56679]

Mr Blunt: Each death in custody is a tragedy. The National Offender Management Service is committed to reducing the number of self-inflicted deaths in prison custody.

Regrettably, there have been three self-inflicted deaths at HMP Risley in the last 12 months.

There do not appear to be any immediate common factors between the three deaths. Unfortunately, clusters of deaths can occur randomly due to the relatively small numbers involved.

Each death is subject to an investigation and, since 2004, these have been undertaken by the prisons and probation ombudsman. Strenuous efforts are made to learn from each death and improve our understanding and procedures for caring for prisoners at risk of suicide or self-harm.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* HM Courts and Tribunals Service, *(c)* HM Land Registry, *(d)* the National Offender Management Service, *(e)* the National Archives and *(f)* the Office of the Public Guardian are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56446]

Mr Djanogly: 189 full-time equivalent staff were engaged in trade union activity representing the 78,000 staff in the Ministry of Justice within the 2008-09 financial year. The estimated total salary cost of such activity was £6.3 million. This work includes national work in MOJ and national and some local work in NOMS.

Facilities agreements between the Ministry of Justice and the trade union sides follow the provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 and the ACAS Code of Practice 'Time off for Trade Union Duties and Activities', available at:

http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2391

The number of trade union representatives working full and part time in the individual business units of the Department and the number of those with a salary of more than £25,900 could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Tribunals: Special Educational Needs

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of tribunal cases on provision of special educational needs support found in favour of a family bringing a case against a local authority *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [56384]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the proportion of judgments made by the first-tier tribunal—special educational needs and disability (formerly special educational needs and disability tribunal) that were at least partially found in favour and fully found in favour of the appellant when compared to the overall number of special educational needs (SEN) decisions made by the tribunal:

Special educational needs appeal findings

Percentage

Academic year	*Proportion of SEN appeals found partially in favour of the appellant*	*Proportion of SEN appeals found in favour of the appellant*
2009-10	10.2	77.4
2008-09	10.7	69.7
2007-08	9.5	66.3
2006-07	12.2	67.8
2005-06	12.2	65.1

It should be noted that any amendment to the statement in the appellant's favour is counted as a partial success whereas only a full dismissal of an appeal is counted a success for the local authority.

The tribunal is engaged in a number of measures which aim to ensure that only those cases that really need to come before it do so. For example, it is encouraging local authorities to review their files earlier and to settle cases earlier where it is appropriate to do so.

The information on judgments broken down by local authority is not routinely collected and would require running reports for each academic year for each of the 150 local authorities. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, information is available on the overall number of appeals registered against each local authority and can be found in the first-tier tribunal—special educational needs and disability annual reports at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/tribunals/send.htm

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* time series, *(b)* comparative geographical and *(c)* other data his Department holds on the number of cases relating to provision of special educational needs support in which the local authority decision was contested by the family and the case (i) did and (ii) did not go to a tribunal in each of the last three years. [56385]

Mr Djanogly: Information on the number of appeals made to the first-tier tribunal special educational needs and disability are published in its annual reports and are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/tribunals/send.htm

The statistics are recorded on an academic year basis (September to August). They include a breakdown of registered appeals by local authority and the number of registered appeals that are decided at a hearing and the numbers of appeals that do not reach a hearing through judicial strike out, withdrawal by parent or concession by local authority.

The number of first-tier tribunal—special educational needs and disability appeal receipts and disposals by calendar year have previously been published annually by the Tribunals Service (now Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service) in its annual report available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/tribunals/index.htm

Neither the tribunal nor the Department for Education hold information on the number of contested cases that do not result in a tribunal application.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts her Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each contract is. [56233]

Damian Green: The Home Department, inclusive of its Executive agencies, holds one contract with Crown Relocations to *(a)* provide relocation and tenancy management services to the UK Border Agency officers posted to Juxtaposed immigration controls at Brussels and Paris. The *(b)* monetary value of the two-year contract is £230,000.

Death Certificates

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* average, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* longest time taken between the issuing of a medical certificate of cause of death and the issuing of the certificate for burial or cremation was in the latest year for which figures are available. [56638]

Damian Green: No analyses are made of the length of time between the issuing of a medical certificate of cause of death and the issuing of the certificate for burial or cremation. There is no precise point at which a death is certified and so the medical certificate may be issued on the same day as the death, or on the following day or occasionally even a few days later. No central record is kept of the dates of issue of medical certificates of cause of death.

Likewise, certificates for burial or cremation are not all issued at the same point in the process. The majority are issued at the time of the registration of the death but some are issued prior to registration. No central record is kept of the dates of issue of certificates for burial or cremation.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50205]

Damian Green: Since May 2010, for greater transparency, all information relating to ministerial overseas travel, including cost is published on the Home Office website on a quarterly basis at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/non-personal-data/hospitality-business-expenses/

Expenditure relating to ministerial car, train and bus travel can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with Cabinet Office Ministerial Code, specifically section 10 which stipulates that all travel arrangements should be efficient and cost-effective.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each Executive agency of her Department has spent on travel by *(a)* private hire vehicles, *(b)* trains, *(c)* buses, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56072]

Damian Green: Expenditure for the three Home Office agencies, since May 2010 is as follows:

Criminal Records Bureau

	£000
(a) Vehicle hire expenditure since May 2010	19
(b) Rail travel expenditure since May 2010	138
(c) Bus travel expenditure since May 2010	0
(d) Commercial air travel expenditure since May 2010	0
(e) Private aircraft travel since May 2010	0

Note:
Expenditure rounded to the nearest £000.

Identity and Passport Service

	£000
(a) Vehicle hire expenditure May 2010 to March 2011	39
(b) Rail travel expenditure May 2010 to March 2011	923
(c) Bus travel expenditure May 2010 to March 2011	5
(d) Commercial air travel expenditure May 2010 to March 2011	348
(e) Private aircraft travel May 2010 to March 2011	0

Note:
Expenditure rounded to the nearest £000.

UK Border Agency

	£000
(a) Vehicle hire expenditure May 2010 to April 2011	1,057
(b) Rail travel expenditure May 2010 to April 2011	1,927
(c) Bus travel expenditure May 2010 to April 2011	[1]—
(d) Commercial air travel expenditure May 2010 to April 2011	1,198
(e) Private aircraft travel May 2010 to April 2011	0

[1] This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.
Note:
Expenditure rounded to the nearest £000.

The Department expects all official travel within Executive agencies to be carried out by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit and the needs of staff with disabilities. This is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on travel in respect of *(a)* each of her Department's executive agencies and *(b)* the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. [56180]

Damian Green: The Home Office had three executive agencies over the period in question (1 May 2010 to 31 March 2011)—Identity and Passport Service, UK Border Agency and Criminal Records Bureau. Travel expenditure of the agency and of the chief executive for each agency is shown in the following table:

Agency	*(a) Total expenditure on travel (rounded to the nearest £000)*	*(b) Travel expenses of chief executive (£)*
UK Border Agency	14,670,000	7,187
Identity and Passport Service	1,800,000	3,828
Criminal Records Bureau	185,000	4,148

Further detail on Home Office Board members expenditure is available on the Home Office website using the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/non-personal-data/hospitality-business-expenses/

The Department expects all official travel within executive agencies to be carried out by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities. This is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Deportation: Children

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children of failed asylum seekers have been removed from the UK in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [56356]

Damian Green *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* There were 316 children of failed asylum seekers removed from the UK between the 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many family groups of failed asylum seekers which include children have been removed from the UK in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [56357]

Damian Green *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* There were 230 family groups of failed asylum seekers which include children removed from the UK between 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

The Government have developed a fresh approach to managing the return of families with children who do not have a legal right to be in the UK. The aim is to maximise the opportunity for families to take responsibility for how they leave the country and to avoid the need for their departure to be enforced by the UK Border Agency. Most elements of this new process were rolled out nationally on 1 March 2011. All families with children that remain unlawfully in the UK could potentially go through this new returns process. The number of families who go through the different stages of the new process will depend on the decisions they take about their departure so is difficult to predict accurately, but we hope that most will take the chance to leave at the earlier assisted or required return stages. This new approach will not apply to children who are unaccompanied.

Domestic Violence

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what domestic violence refuges her Department funded in each region in 2010-11; and what the *(a)* level and *(b)* source of funding was in each case. [51286]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office funded Sojourner Project provides accommodation and support via refuges to victims of domestic violence who entered the UK on a spouse or partner visa and subsequently have no recourse to public funds after being forced to flee their home. The Home Office provided almost £2 million of funding to support the Sojourner Project during 2010-11. £2.4 million has been allocated to enhance and continue this project in 2011-12.

Supporting People, funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), provides housing related support services for vulnerable people, including women fleeing domestic violence. DCLG secured investment of £6.5 billion for Supporting People during the spending review; this equates to an average annual reduction of less than 1% in cash terms. Funding for Supporting People services forms part of local authorities' overall formula grant, and it is for local authorities to make decisions regarding funding for Supporting People services based on their local needs and priorities, which may include the funding of refuges.

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has undertaken on the incidence of offences of domestic violence in police authority areas where domestic violence units *(a)* are and *(b)* are not in place. [56277]

Lynne Featherstone: Research of this nature has not been undertaken centrally by the Home Office. The British Crime Survey (BCS) contains a self-completion module which is used to measure the prevalence of domestic abuse victimisation in the last year and since the age of 16. However, information on the location of domestic violence units is not centrally available and therefore it is not possible to compare prevalence rates in those police forces that do have domestic violence units with those that do not.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any independent domestic violence adviser posts funded by her Department are based in police forces. [56907]

Lynne Featherstone: According to the information available, 32 out of the 144 independent domestic violence advisers (IDVAs) funded by the Home Office in 2011-12 are either based in police stations or spend a significant part of their time in police stations. In some cases applicants were still to decide on the location of the IDVA.

Drugs: Crime Prevention

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the assignment of police officers to duties outside European countries as part of international efforts to counter drug smuggling. [56851]

Nick Herbert: The fight against organised crime and drugs is one of the UK's top priorities and given the international nature of organised crime, work with international partners is becoming increasingly important in reducing harm to the UK. Assistance is delivered through police forces and a number of other policing and Government agencies.

The assignment of police officers is a matter for chief constables or heads of policing agencies. Serving officers from forces in England and Wales who travel overseas to provide assistance to international organisations or other bodies engaged in policing activities must be authorised to do so by their police authority and the Secretary of State for the Home Department (under the provisions of Section 26 of the Police Act 1996).

Electoral Register

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered electors are resident in each police authority area. [55837]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* The information requested is shown in the following table:

Police area	*Population*	*Registered electors*
Metropolitan	7,512,400	5,597,455
Greater Manchester	2,553,837	1,967,582
West Midlands	2,600,064	1,954,664
Thames Valley	2,160,014	1,661,435
West Yorkshire	2,161,241	1,584,084
Hampshire	1,829,461	1,434,125
Devon and Cornwall	1,648,492	1,296,665
Essex	1,669,945	1,295,170
Kent	1,634,596	1,249,042
Avon and Somerset	1,560,551	1,219,258
Sussex	1,528,435	1,209,906
Lancashire	1,449,686	1,114,800
Northumbria	1,397,447	1,075,612
Merseyside	1,353,596	1,022,048
South Yorkshire	1,292,869	973,165
South Wales	1,226,979	948,716
West Mercia	1,181,937	937,033
Staffordshire	1,062,461	845,802
Surrey	1,085,249	842,840
Hertfordshire	1,058,586	826,009
Nottinghamshire	1,055,465	792,308
Cheshire	999,884	789,903
Derbyshire	990,385	777,680
Leicestershire	963,067	763,957
Humberside	904,947	694,363
Norfolk	832,443	656,497
North Yorkshire	783,337	613,730
Dorset	701,084	582,668
Cambridgeshire	752,870	581,283
Suffolk	702,037	548,054
Lincolnshire	686,195	544,210
North Wales	675,563	519,609
Northamptonshire	669,102	516,210
Wiltshire	635,326	503,244
Durham	600,055	473,589
Gloucestershire	578,631	466,357
Bedfordshire	590,689	443,005
Gwent	559,719	424,856
Cleveland	558,206	418,378
Warwickshire	522,232	414,030
Cumbria	496,151	393,404
Dyfed-Powys	503,624	387,059
Total	53,728,858	41,359,805

Firearms: Young Offenders

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 18 years were investigated by the police for illegal use of airguns in each of the last five years in each police authority area in England and Wales. [56512]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally. The age of persons investigated for committing offences involving the use of firearms, including air weapons, cannot be identified from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Fraud

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what responsibilities police and crime commissioners will have in respect of economic crime. [55828]

Nick Herbert: The Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will be required to hold chief constables to account for the full range of their responsibilities, which will include economic crime.

Independent Police Complaints Commission: Finance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 586W, on the Independent Police Complaints Commission, what the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital grants to the Independent Police Complaints Commission were in inflation-adjusted terms from 2005-06 to 2011-12. [56371]

Nick Herbert: Further to the information provided on 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 586W, the resource and capital grants paid to the Independent Police Complaints Commission, adjusted in line with inflation, can be calculated by reference to the gross domestic product deflators. These may be found on Her Majesty's Treasury website at the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_gdp_fig.htm

National Public Order Intelligence Unit

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether she has any plans to make a statement to the House following the publication of the report of the review by Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary into the operational accountability of undercover work conducted by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit and how intelligence activity is authorised in law; [55492]

(2) by what means Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary will assess proportionality as part of its review of the operational accountability of undercover work conducted by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit and how intelligence activity is authorised in law. [55493]

Nick Herbert: Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC) is specifically considering the rote of authorising officers in relation to intelligence activity as part of its inquiry, supported by advice from senior Queen's counsel as to the applicable law. The concept of proportionality applicable to the activities of the National Public Order Intelligence Unit is being assessed against requirements of the European convention on human rights and the Human Rights Act 1998.

The Government have given a commitment to ensure that the findings of the review will be published by HMIC and will await the outcome of the review before taking a decision on whether a statement to the House is appropriate.

Northumbria Police

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the rate of employee attrition for *(a)* civilian staff and *(b)* warranted officers in Northumbria police force was in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [55711]

(2) how many *(a)* civilian staff and *(b)* warranted officers Northumbria police employed in each year from 2002-03. [55713]

Nick Herbert: The available figures for Northumbria police force show the rate of employee attrition for civilian staff and warranted officers from 2005-06 to 2009-10. For the purposes of this answer, we have taken employee attrition to mean the total number of leavers during the financial year as a percentage of the total number of staff in post at the end of the financial year. The second table shows the number of civilian and warranted officers employed in Northumbria police force from 2002-03 to 2009-10.

Rate of employee attrition (FTE)[1] for civilian staff and warranted officers in Northumbria police force from 2005-06 to 2009-10

	Leavers[4]		*Strength*[5]		*Employee attrition*[6]	
	Civilian staff[2]	*Warranted officers*[3]	*Civilian staff*[2]	*Warranted officers*[3]	*Civilian staff*[2] *(percentage)*	*Warranted officers*[3] *(percentage)*
2005-06	90	200	1,665	4,066	5	5
2006-07	120	196	1,711	3,981	7	5
2007-08	157	214	1,863	3,983	8	5
2008-09	132	196	2,068	4,111	6	5
2009-10	122	156	2,010	4,187	6	4

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
[2] Civilian staff are police staff.
[3] Warranted officers are police officers.
[4] Leavers during the financial year.
[5] Strength at the end of financial year.
[6] Employee attrition—leavers during the financial year as a percentage of staff in post at the end of the financial year.

Number of civilian staff and warranted officers employed (FTE)[1] in Northumbria police force from 2002-03 to 2009-10[4]

	Civilian staff[2]	*Warranted officers*[3]
2002-03	1,457	4,018
2003-04	1,495	4,061
2004-05	1,491	4,088
2005-06	1,665	4,066
2006-07	1,711	3,981
2007-08	1,863	3,983
2008-09	2,068	4,111
2009-10	2,010	4,187

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
[2] Civilian staff are police staff.
[3] Warranted officers are police officers.
[4] Strength at the end of the reporting period, as at 31 March.

Nottinghamshire Police

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the proportion of time spent on frontline policing duties by officers in the Nottinghamshire police force in the latest period for which figures are available. [49144]

Nick Herbert: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) report, "Demanding Times", published on 30 March, provides the definition of frontline, middle office and back office police functions. A copy of the report is available at:

http://www.hmic.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Thematics/THM_20110330.pdf

Full details of policing roles, their categorisation by frontline, middle office and back office, and an estimate of the percentage of resource allocated to the front line under this definition across England and Wales in 2010 appear on pages 19-21 of the report. Because the proportion of time spent on the front line by officers in different roles will have varied in earlier years and across forces, we are not able to give estimates at force level or for earlier years.

Police

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of time police officers in each force spent on frontline policing duties in each year since 2007. [53364]

Nick Herbert: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) report 'Demanding Times', published on 30 March 2011, provides the definition of frontline, middle office and back office police functions. A copy of the report is available at:

http://www.hmic.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Thematics/THM_20110330.pdf

Full details of policing roles, their categorisation by frontline, middle office and back office, and an estimate of the percentage of resource allocated to the front line under this definition across England and Wales in 2010 appear on pages 19-21 of the report. Because the proportion of time spent on the front line by officers in different roles will have varied in earlier years and across forces, we are not able to give estimates at force level or for earlier years.

Police: Ammunition

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the use of hollow-point ammunition by police forces; and if she will make a statement. [55808]

Nick Herbert: It is for chief officers to decide what ammunition and weapons are appropriate to use in order to meet operational requirements, subject to the general law that the use of force by the police must be reasonable in the circumstances. A review of 9mm ammunition by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch (now the Centre for Applied Science and Technology) found that hollow point ammunition performed better than the current standard 9mm round. That review was passed on to the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Police: Complaints

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 586W, on the Independent Police Complaints Commission, how many complaints the Independent Police Complaints Commission has investigated in each financial year since 2005-06. [56372]

Nick Herbert: The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) investigates only the most serious matters and complaints relating to the conduct of an officer or member of police staff. The majority of complaints are dealt with at the local level by the relevant police force. The following table shows the number of independent and managed investigations conducted by the IPCC in each year since 2005-06. Figures for 2010-11 are yet to be published.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Independent investigations commenced	52	64	100	106	106
Managed investigations commenced	188	176	152	117	151

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many working hours were spent on the Independent Police Complaints Commission report into allegations against the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police following a recruitment campaign for police constables; and what the cost of the investigation was. [56646]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold this information.

These are matters for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), which will respond to you directly.

Police: Jamaica

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are assigned to duties in Jamaica; and how many were so assigned in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [56849]

Nick Herbert: Since 2009 the Metropolitan Police Service has seconded an officer to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) in Jamaica, in order to assist the Jamaicans in relation to capacity building projects and training; and to undertake police inquiries that emanate from UK based operations. These involve investigation into serious crimes: murder, firearms, drug trafficking and money laundering.

Since August 2010, there has been one Metropolitan Police Service officer conducting financial inquiries in tandem with SOCA officers and assisting Jamaica's capacity capabilities. No other forces have officers assigned to Jamaica.

Police: Manpower

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers per head of population there are in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales. [56484]

Nick Herbert: The available figures show the number of police officers per 100,000 population in England and in Wales as at 31 March 2010.

Police officer strength in England and Wales as at 31 March 2010 by police force area and officers per 100,000 population—Full-time equivalents[1]

Police force	*All police officers*	*Total officers per 100,000 population*[2]
England	136,365	265
Wales	7,369	246
Total of all 43 forces	143,734	264

[1] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan police are combined.

Police: Mass Media

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 877W, on police: mass media, if she will discuss with the Metropolitan police service the use of private investigators by media organisations to follow serving police officers in the course of their duties; and if she will make a statement. [56365]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* We have no plans to do so.

Police: Termination of Employment

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanism exists for a police officer leaving a police force to ensure that their employer completes the leaving date on their leaving certificate. [56801]

Nick Herbert: Regulation 17 of the Police Regulations 2003 requires police forces to issue leavers with a certificate showing final rank and setting out the period of service in that force and in any other force.

Police: Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of each police force are entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 per annum; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56454]

Nick Herbert: It is for individual chief officers to determine local policy for police staff trade union activities. The Home Office does not collect information on police staff trade union activity or costs.

Security Services: Data Protection

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether data losses have been reported to her Department by the security services as a result of computer hacking by media organisations in the last five years. [56417]

James Brokenshire: There have been no data losses reported to the Home Office by the security services as a result of computer hacking by media organisations in the last five years.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to receive the Serious Organised Crime Agency's annual report for 2009-10. [56850]

Nick Herbert: The Serious Organised Crime Agency's (SOCA) Annual Report and Accounts for 2009-10 was laid before Parliament in July 2010. A copy of the report is also available on the SOCA website at:

www.soca.gov.uk

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Expenditure

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much per capita his Department spent on ambulance services in each of the last five years. [56482]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not held centrally in the format requested. The information shown in the following tables is the total spend on ambulance services, per trust, in each of the last five years.

2005-06 NHS ambulance trusts total expenditure

Trust	*Total expenditure (£000)*
Avon Ambulance Service NHS Trust	26,289
Essex Ambulance Service NHS Trust	59,632
Gloucestershire Ambulance Services NHS Trust	18,786
Mersey Regional Ambulance Service NHS Trust	55,567
Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	28,878
South Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	34,508
Lincolnshire Ambulance NHS Trust	36,305
Cumbria Ambulance Service NHS Trust	17,773
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Ambulance and Paramedic NHS Trust	41,386
West Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	66,692
Royal Berkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	24,504
Dorset Ambulance NHS Trust	27,764
Wiltshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	15,528
Two Shires Ambulance NHS Trust	29,684
Westcountry Ambulance Services NHS Trust	69,862
West Midlands Ambulance NHS Trust	67,666
Hampshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	35,134
Hereford and Worcester Ambulance NHS Trust	18,429
Coventry and Warwickshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	26,100
Greater Manchester Ambulance NHS Trust	64,277
Lancashire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	41,195
East Anglian Ambulance NHS Trust	76,881
Oxfordshire Ambulance NHS Trust	16,587
Kent Ambulance NHS Trust	37,390
Surrey Ambulance Service NHS Trust	34,414
Sussex Ambulance Service NHS Trust	52,765
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	210,472
Tees East and North Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	55,458
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	69,563
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	54,782

Source:
2005-06 NHS Trusts Financial Returns

2006-10 NHS ambulance trusts total expenditure

	Total expenditure (£000)			
Trust	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	28,090	232,451	143,999	161,532
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	211,491	66,193	211,297	244,665
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	61,611	78,542	79,246	82,755
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	69,419	208,305	256,236	275,473
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	184,240	152,688	86,145	99,370
Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	147,360	132,242	228,167	265,847
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	123,199	145,886	121,244	136,223

2006-10 NHS ambulance trusts total expenditure

Trust	*Total expenditure (£000)* 2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	116,970	191,112	145,410	150,991
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust	186,001	132,772	122,317	117,741
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust	123,333	105,714	160,340	187,094
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	101,185	110,868	184,312	201,197
South West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	102,705	232,451	143,999	161,532

Note:
The figures provided show the total expenditure, before finance costs, of each ambulance trust between 2005-06 and 2009-10. A separate table is provided for 2006-10 owing to changes in organisations over the time period.
Source:
NHS Trusts Financial Returns

Bladder Cancer

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has any plans for an awareness campaign about the causes and symptoms of bladder cancer. [56673]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January 2011, sets out an ambition to save an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15 through earlier diagnosis of cancer and improved access to screening and radiotherapy. A copy has already been placed in the Library. To support earlier diagnosis of cancer the Government have committed over £450 million over the next four years, which includes provision for the funding of awareness activity.

The focus of future campaign work will be determined by evaluation of current cancer awareness activity, including £9 million to support 59 local projects focusing on breast, bowel and lung cancer and £1.75 million to trial a national bowel cancer campaign in two regions. However, we know that all the 5,000 lives cannot be saved by tackling these common cancers alone, and we are considering how we might extend the previous campaigns to cover other cancers, including bladder cancer.

Bladder Cancer: Research

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for extended research trials for bladder cancer. [56825]

Paul Burstow: The Department's National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network (CRN) is currently hosting 14 trials and other well-designed studies in bladder cancer that are in set-up or recruiting patients. Details can be found on the UK CRN portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

Blood: CJD

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on prion filtration. [56533]

Anne Milton: The Department has received representations in the form of parliamentary questions and correspondence from industry about the use of prion filtration.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the total cost of leuco-depletion in its first year of implementation; [56534]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the NHS of leuco-depletion in each of the last five years. [56535]

Anne Milton: The total cost of leuco-depletion in the first year of implementation 1998-99 was £35 million.

Information on the cost of leuco-depletion in the last five years is shown in the following table:

Cost of leuco-depletion by year

	£ million
2006-07	9
2007-08	9
2008-09	9
2009-10	8
2010-11	8
Total	43

Note:
Costs are estimates based on approximate costs of filter in an integral pack format for the last five years.
Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost of implementing prion filtration for all transfusion blood using the P-Capt filter. [56536]

Anne Milton: Initial assessments of the estimated costs, which remain commercial in confidence, were made in October 2009. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs are dependant upon the outcome of the prion filtered red blood cells in surgery patients (PRISM) study, the assessment of the results of which is not expected until 2012. No final estimates, based on the costs applicable at that time, can be made until then.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness and accuracy of mammogram screening for the detection of invasive lobular carcinoma; [56221]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of ultrasound breast screening in addition to mammography screening for women with dense breasts; [56222]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost of introducing supplemental ultrasound breast screening as part of the NHS breast screening programme. [56223]

Paul Burstow: Mammography screening is regarded as the gold standard for breast screening. This has been determined through rigorous clinical trials and is supported and promoted by the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer.

However, like other screening tests, it is not perfect, and we know that some cancers, such as invasive lobular carcinoma, may be more difficult to detect with a mammogram than other types of breast cancer. This is why we encourage all women to be breast aware, check for any changes and report any changes to their general practitioner as quickly as possible.

The Department has commissioned no research into the effectiveness of ultrasound breast screening in addition to mammography screening for women with dense breasts. Mammography is the only screening modality that has proven to reduce the mortality from breast cancer. Digital mammography has been shown to be more effective for younger women and women with dense breasts, and we are in the process of digitising the national health service breast screening programme (NHS BSP) in England. By the end of May 2011, 83% of local programmes will have at least one digital machine and 35% will be fully digital.

Ultrasound screening may be used within the NHS BSP as part of the triple assessment process.

Cancer: Drugs

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the capacity of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to carry out appraisals for innovative inhibitor therapies for rare cancers where the target population is very small. [56467]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has appraised, or is appraising, a number of inhibitor therapies for less common cancers. Full information on NICE's appraisal methodology is available in its "Guide to the Methods of Technology Appraisal", available at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/devnicetech/technologyappraisalprocessguides/guidetothemethodsoftechnologyappraisal.jsp

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the capacity of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to carry out appraisals for innovative inhibitor therapies for rare cancers; what recent assessment he has made of the availability of such therapies; and if he will make a statement. [57177]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has appraised, or is appraising, a number of inhibitor therapies for less common cancers. Full information on NICE'S appraisal methodology is available in its "Guide to the Methods of Technology Appraisal", available at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/devnicetech/technologyappraisalprocessguides/guidetothemethodsoftechnologyappraisal.jsp

Primary care trusts are legally obliged to fund drugs and treatments recommended in NICE technology appraisal guidance, within three months of guidance being published, unless the requirement is waived in a specific case.

We also launched the Cancer Drugs Fund in April 2011, which makes £200 million available in each of the next three years to help thousands more cancer patients access the drugs their clinicians believe will help them.

Cancer: Research

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department allocated to research into *(a)* breast, *(b)* prostate, *(c)* ovarian, *(d)* pancreatic and *(e)* bladder cancer in each of the last 10 years. [56682]

Paul Burstow: Information on expenditure by the Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) on research into individual tumour sites is not held centrally. The number of NIHR Clinical Research Network studies in breast, prostate, ovarian, pancreatic, and bladder cancer that are currently in set-up or recruiting patients are shown in the following table:

	Number
Breast	82
Prostate	27
Ovary	15
Pancreas	10
Bladder	14

Details can be found on the UK Clinical Research Network portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI), a United Kingdom-wide partnership between Government, charities and industry, makes cancer research information available online via the International Cancer Research Portfolio database at:

www.cancerportfolio.org

The NCRI published an analysis of the national cancer research portfolio that includes details of expenditure by its partner organisations on research into individual tumour sites. The analysis is available online at:

www.ncri.org.uk/includes/Publications/reports/analysisReport08.pdf

A more detailed account of annual aggregated portfolio expenditure is given in an associated data package available at:

www.ncri.org.uk/includes/Publications/reports/Data_package.xls

Drugs: Hospitals

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were *(a)* admitted to and *(b)* treated in hospital as a result of taking natural remedies in the last five years; [56210]

(2) how many people were *(a)* admitted to and *(b)* treated in hospital as a result of taking licensed drugs in the last five years. [56211]

Paul Burstow: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care does not hold the information in the form requested. However, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Yellow Card Scheme provides for voluntary reporting of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) by healthcare professionals and members of the public. The scheme is run by the MHRA and Commission for Human Medicines and collects ADR reports from across the whole United Kingdom for all medicines, including herbal products. There is also a legal obligation for pharmaceutical companies to report all serious ADRs for their products that they are aware of.

As the scheme is voluntary, it is recognised that not all ADRs are reported. Data collected through the Yellow Card Scheme do not represent all patients who have suffered an adverse reaction to a medicine. Therefore it is not possible to provide the number of people who were admitted and treated in hospital as a result of taking a natural remedy or licensed drug.

The following table provides a breakdown of the total number of UK spontaneous suspected ADR reports received by the MHRA during the last five years where the reporter has stated that the ADR resulted in or prolonged hospitalisation.

	Number of reports
2006	4,635
2007	4,485
2008	4,620
2009	4,475
2010	4,541

This dataset includes all UK spontaneous 'suspected' ADR reports for all medicines including herbal medicines.

Natural remedies can include homeopathic remedies, flower remedies, vitamins, food substances and a number of other unlicensed medicines. Suspected ADRs are recorded according to the active drug substance and reports for natural remedies are not specifically identified as such. Without knowing the exact name of the natural remedy, the data can not be extracted.

It is important to note that the reporting of a suspected adverse reaction does not necessarily mean it is related to the drug. The MHRA ask reporters to send them 'suspicions' of ADRs: however, these are not proven. Many factors have to be taken into account in assessing causal relationships including temporal association, the possible contribution of concomitant medication and the underlying disease being treated.

Food Poisoning

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents of food-borne illness were reported in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008, *(e)* 2009 and *(f)* 2010. [56304]

Anne Milton: The number of laboratory-confirmed cases of *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *E. coli* O157, *Listeria monocytogenes* and norovirus infection in the United Kingdom each year between 2005 and 2010 are shown in the following table. The data for 2010 are provisional.

The Food Standards Agency has monitored changes in the number of cases of these key foodborne pathogens since 2000 (norovirus since 2005).

UK	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Salmonella	12,939	13,781	13,347	11,609	10,091	9,750
Campylobacter	52,518	52,571	58,051	55,732	65,114	70,325
E. coli O157	1,171	1,292	1,125	1,250	1,319	1,081
Listeria monocytogenes	220	210	255	206	234	174
Norovirus	4,653	7,320	8,495	9,438	10,378	15,528
Total	71,501	75,174	81,273	78,235	87,136	96,858

Source:
Health Protection Agency, Health Protection Scotland, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland.

General Practitioners

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the loss of patient records from GP surgeries; and whether his Department has commissioned any research into data storage methods in *(a)* GP surgeries and *(b)* NHS hospitals. [56213]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department receives reports on the most serious incidents involving loss of patient data but it does not routinely collect information about less significant incidents or about the loss of individual patient records. Details of reported incidents are published on strategic health authority websites. Fifteen incidents involving loss of patient data were reported in 2008, four in 2009 and five in 2010.

Responsibility for data storage rests with each national health service organisation, whether general practitioner practice or NHS trust and the Department has not commissioned any research into the data storage methods used. Comprehensive guidance is available on the secure retention of data and records and commissioners of patient care services are expected to hold providers to account against published information governance standards.

Health and Social Care Bill

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to propose that the Health and Social Care Bill be recommitted to a Public Bill Committee. [57085]

Paul Burstow: The Government will make decisions on what changes to propose to the Health and Social Care Bill once the current listening exercise has concluded and the report of the NHS Future Forum has been received.

Health Professions: Patients

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what measures are in place to monitor the conduct of professional interpersonal relationships between staff and patients in NHS hospitals; [56732]

(2) what measures are in place to monitor the *(a)* nursing and *(b)* medical care experienced by patients in NHS hospitals. [56796]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Patient Survey Programme, co-ordinated by the Care Quality Commission, is used to measure different aspects of patients' experiences of care. Surveys contain a variety of experience-based questions, which include questions on the relationships between doctors, nurses and patients, and care and treatment.

National health service organisations may also measure patient experience according to local requirements.

Health Services: Merseyside

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust and *(b)* others about a possible merger between that Trust and North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust; and if he will make a statement. [56681]

Mr Simon Burns: No formal discussions have taken place with Ministers on a potential merger of the Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (previously North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust) with another NHS trust.

At a Westminster Hall debate on 4 May 2011 on 'Private Finance Initiative Hospitals', the potential for the St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust to merge with another NHS trust as an option for achieving foundation trust status was discussed. The Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was identified as a possible merger partner, given its geographical proximity to the St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. However, the St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is still considering all options that are available to achieve foundation trust status.

On 16 May 2011, I briefly discussed this issue in a telephone conversation with my hon. Friend the Member for Warrington South (David Mowat).

Work is continuing on the development of a Tripartite Formal Agreement between St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust, North West Strategic Health Authority and the Department to set out the agreed options that will enable the trust to obtain foundation trust status.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that *(a)* staff at Warrington hospital and *(b)* the public in Warrington are consulted on any possible merger between North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust and St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust. [57180]

Paul Burstow: Any proposed mergers involving national health service trusts or NHS foundation trusts will be required to include the appropriate consultations in line with the legislative requirements for any such changes.

Under the current legislation, for a merger to occur between an NHS trust and an NHS foundation trust, the applicants must consult about the application in accordance with regulations. This includes a requirement to consult with the staff employed by the applicants and individuals who live in any area specified in the proposed constitution as the area for a public constituency, among other parties.

In relation to a possible merger between Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (formerly North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust) and St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust, if this was the decision taken to support the achievement of foundation trust status and sustain the provision of high quality healthcare services, then these consultation requirements would need to be undertaken.

Health Services: Older People

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of developing a tool to assess the biological rather than chronological age of a patient when determining the suitability of older patients for different forms of treatment; and if he will make a statement. [56541]

Paul Burstow: No assessment of the merits of developing a tool to assess the biological rather than chronological age of patients has been made by the Department. The Department's work on achieving age equality in health and social care services is based on the legal framework and definitions set out in the Equality Act 2010. Treatment and care in the national health service is provided on the basis of clinical need. We intend to ban from 2012, where it is not clinically justified, all forms of age discrimination in the treatment of patients by the NHS.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps are being taken by his Department to support clinicians in fully assessing the suitability of older patients for different forms of treatment; [56542]

(2) what plans his Department has to commission research on clinical attitudes to the treatment of older people; and if he will make a statement. [56543]

Paul Burstow: Clinicians are responsible, within their area of competence, for treating patients based on the assessment they and the patient make of the patient's needs and priorities, and on clinical judgments about the likely effectiveness of the treatment options; and in accordance with guidance from their respective professional bodies and regulators. For example, the curriculum for general medical practitioners (GPs) set out by the Royal College of General Practitioners and endorsed by the General Medical Council requires a GP to develop the skills needed to assess the particular needs of older people and the suitability of treatment options.

The Pharmaceutical Oncology Initiative, in partnership with the Department, is commissioning research to explore the extent to which age is a factor in treatment decisions for a range of cancers, as well as the extent to which clinical attitudes vary across different cancer types and in different countries. The results will be available in the second half of 2011.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he expects the same commencement date for the ban on age discrimination to be applied in the health and social care sectors as in other sectors. [56549]

Paul Burstow: Subject to ongoing public consultation, the ban on age discrimination in services, public functions and associations in health and social care is expected to come into effect in April 2012 as in other sectors.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what mechanisms have been put in place to minimise *(a)* indirect and *(b)* direct age discrimination in the health service; [56551]

(2) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* nature, *(b)* extent and *(c)* variability of age discrimination in the health and social care system; [56552]

(3) what assessment he has made of the levels of *(a)* indirect and *(b)* direct age discrimination in the health and social care system; [56553]

(4) what assessment he has made of the recommendations outlined in Achieving Age Equality in Health and Social Care; and if he will make a statement; [56555]

(5) what steps his Department is taking to promote age equality in the health and social care sector; and if he will make a statement; [56556]

(6) what recent assessment he has made of the extent of age discrimination in the health and social care sector; and if he will make a statement. [56557]

Paul Burstow: The Department commissioned a detailed review in 2009 to identify where age discrimination was most likely to occur within health and social care services. The review report, 'Achieving Age Equality in Health and Social Care', made recommendations on how the health and social care sector could end age discrimination and promote age equality in the light of the provisions in the Equality Act 2010. These have formed the basis of the Government's plans to implement the ban on age discrimination in health and social care from April 2012 as set out in 'Equality Act 2010: banning age discrimination in services, public functions and associations, a consultation on proposed exceptions to the ban' which was published by the Government Equalities Office on 3 March 2011. This consultation, which reflects the Government's intention of introducing no exceptions to the ban in health and social care services, ends on 25 May 2011. Having no exceptions to the ban means that from April 2012 any use of age in decision-making in health and social care services will need to be objectively justified.

Heart Diseases: Children

Mr Sutcliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what dates the foreign language translations of the consultation documents for the review of Children's Congenital Cardiac Services will be made available to the public; [56944]

(2) what proportion of patients being treated at the children's congenital cardiac service at Leeds General Infirmary are from black and minority ethnic backgrounds; [56945]

(3) into which languages the consultation documents for the review of Children's Congenital Cardiac Services will be translated; [56946]

(4) on what date the consultation documents for the review of Children's Congenital Cardiac Services were made available in *(a)* English and *(b)* Welsh. [56947]

Paul Burstow: The 'Safe and Sustainable' review of children's heart services in England is being conducted by the NHS Specialised Commissioning Team. We have, however, been following its progress.

Translations of the consultation documents have been available on request. Acting on requests received, the NHS is translating the consultation document and response forms into 10 different languages. They are available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Farsi, Gujarati, Polish, Hindi, Punjabi, Somali and Urdu.

The English consultation documents for the review of children's congenital cardiac services were available on the National Specialised Service's website from 1 March 2011. The Welsh version was made available on 25 March 2011. They can be found at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/document/safe-sustainable-a-new-vision-children-s-congenital-heart-services-in-england-consultation-document

Information on the proportion of patients being treated at the children's congenital cardiac service at Leeds General Infirmary who are from black and minority ethnic backgrounds is not held centrally.

Hospitals: Admissions

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many infants were admitted to hospital with a respiratory episode attributable to passive smoke in each primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [56697]

Anne Milton: Data are not available in the format requested.

However, the Royal College of Physicians' report, 'Passive smoking and children. A report by the Tobacco Advisory Group' London: RCP; 2010, states that:

> "lower respiratory infections are common in infants, resulting, for example, in over 33,000 hospital admissions in infants aged under two years in England alone, where about 10 per cent are estimated to be due to passive smoke exposure".

Hospitals: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much per capita his Department spent on maintaining and improving hospital premises in each of the last five years. [56481]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the table.

National health service organisations are locally responsible for deciding the amount of expenditure they make with regard to maintaining and improving their hospital premises. Such decisions will be based on the state of their premises, their strategy for using their premises to support clinical services and their available resources.

Revenue expenditure spent on facility management costs by the NHS per capita: (some maintenance and improvement of facilities will be funded through capital expenditure not included in these figures)

	Facility management costs (£)	Population number	Cost of occupancy per capita (£/number)
2005-06	4,582,555,345	50,466,162	91
2006-07	4,858,285,598	50,763,893	96
2007-08	5,327,189,237	51,106,181	104
2008-09	6,190,045,759	51,464,646	120

Revenue expenditure spent on facility management costs by the NHS per capita; (some maintenance and improvement of facilities will be funded through capital expenditure not included in these figures)

	Facility management costs (£)	*Population number*	*Cost of occupancy per capita (£/number)*
2009-10	6,642,961,687	51,809,741	128

Source:

The facility management cost is the revenue expenditure costs including labour, materials, equipment, consumables, management and contracting that are incurred to deliver the maintenance and improvement of premises. These data are as provided by the NHS through the Estates Return Information Collection system and have not been amended centrally.

The population numbers are the final mid-year population estimates (2001 census based) published by the Office for National Statistics. The 2005-08 figures were adjusted in May 2010 to reflect revisions to migration methodology.

Influenza: Vaccination

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that adequate influenza vaccinations are available in the winter of 2011. [56458]

Anne Milton: The chief medical officer (CMO) wrote to the national health service on 14 March asking strategic health authorities (SHAs) to assure themselves that robust local plans were in place for the seasonal flu immunisation programme for this winter. The Department will maintain an ongoing dialogue with SHAs on this subject until the start of the flu season and beyond.

A copy of the CMO letter of 14 March has been placed in the Library.

Macular Degeneration: Drugs

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects avastin to be available through the NHS to patients suffering from wet age-related macular degeneration. [56952]

Paul Burstow: Avastin is not licensed for use in the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration.

Clinicians can prescribe medicines off-licence, subject to primary care trusts agreeing funding, if they feel it is right for an individual patient after discussing the potential risks and taking into account the patient's medical history. In those circumstances, the clinician would have to retain clinical responsibility for the patient while prescribing the drug.

NHS Blood and Transplant

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to privatise the NHS Blood and Transplant service. [56818]

Anne Milton: I refer the right hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Easington (Grahame M. Morris) on 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 991W. There are no plans to privatise the blood service.

NHS: Equality

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the roll-out of information prescriptions and targeted information on levels of inequality in the national health service. [56539]

Paul Burstow: Information prescriptions are intended to support everyone to access the information they need to take control of their health and manage their condition. The Department has not specifically assessed the effect of information prescriptions on inequality in the national health service.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing key performance indicators to measure levels of inequality in the national health service; and if he will make a statement. [56540]

Paul Burstow: One of the key principles of the "NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12" is the need to promote equality and reduce inequalities in health outcomes.

In selecting outcomes and determining how they should be measured, active consideration has been given to how the indicators can be analysed by equality and inequalities dimensions to support NHS action on reducing health inequalities and promoting equality. In addition to the legally protected characteristics (age, race, religion or belief, sex, disability and sexual orientation only), particular consideration has been given to socio-economic and area deprivation as these are drivers of poor health outcomes.

Furthermore, the set of principles that the Secretary of State for Health and the proposed NHS Commissioning Board will use when negotiating levels of ambition against the indicators in the NHS Outcomes Framework includes consideration of inequalities in health outcomes taking into account equalities characteristics, disadvantage and area deprivation, where it is possible to do so.

The framework will help the proposed NHS Commissioning Board to play its full part in promoting equality in line with the Equality Act 2010 and tackling inequalities.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of developing additional equality metrics to measure progress on reducing inequality in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [56545]

Paul Burstow: Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 places a general Equality Duty on listed public authorities, including NHS organisations and the Department of Health to eliminate discrimination; harassment and victimisation, advance equality and promote good relations. Information is key to providing transparency to evidence progress made in reducing inequality in line with the three aims of the Equality Duty.

On 17 March 2011 a 'policy review' was launched by the Minister for Women and Equalities. This review proposed a less process orientated approach to equality. Any proposals around the development of additional policy metrics by the Department would need to be within the context of the results of that policy review.

The "NHS Outcomes Framework", published in December 2010, contains an initial assessment at Annex A of the indicators that can be analysed by equalities dimensions to support NHS action on reducing inequality in the NHS. In addition to the legally protected characteristics (age, race, religion or belief, sex, disability and sexual orientation only), consideration has also been given to socio-economic and area deprivation as these are drivers of poor health outcomes. A copy is available in the Library.

We are assessing the availability of indicators that can be disaggregated by equality characteristics, as well as other breakdowns with suppliers.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of coordination at *(a)* regional and *(b)* local level in implementing the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 in the NHS. [56547]

Paul Burstow: Each national health service organisation is responsible for ensuring that it understands and complies with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The Act requires all public bodies, including NHS organisations, to assess and consider equality issues when developing and delivering services.

At the regional level, all strategic health authorities, often supported by the Department, have run events and programmes about the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that organisations in their regions understand what they need to do and work towards a common approach.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's support to local health organisations in monitoring and analysing patterns of health service provision by age; and if he will make a statement. [56548]

Paul Burstow: The Department and its arm's length bodies offer a range of commissioning guidance and other support. It is a matter for local national health service bodies to identify the needs of their local population and commission the appropriate services.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that the organisations and individuals responsible for the distribution of resources within the health and social care system are aware of the legislative requirements arising from the Equality Act 2010. [56550]

Paul Burstow: Guidance is available from a number of sources including the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Government Equalities Office and NHS Employers with whom the Department is working to support the national health service to implement the Equality Act 2010.

The 'NHS Operating Framework 2011-12' reminds NHS organisations to ensure that all decisions are taken with due regard to the public sector Equality Duty to ensure that decisions are fair, transparent, accountable, evidence-based and consider the needs and rights of staff and patients across all the equality characteristics.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken by his Department to work with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to *(a)* review its guidance to ensure it is compliant with the Equality Act 2010, and *(b)* promote further research on ageing; and if he will make a statement. [56554]

Mr Simon Burns: As a public authority, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is required to fulfil its duties under the Equality Act 2010. It is for NICE as an independent body to ensure that its guidance is compliant with the Act.

Where it considers the evidence base is lacking, NICE can make research recommendations as part of its guidance.

NHS: Manpower

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many nurses there are per head of population; [56475]

(2) how many GPs there are per head of population. [56476]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table gives the numbers of nurses and general practitioners (GPs) per head of population as at 30 September 2010, the date of the last NHS Workforce Census.

Number of nurses and GPs per head of population in England as at 30 September 2010

	Headcount	*Headcount population per 100.000*
All Qualified Nursing Staff[1]	410,615	792.5
All GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	35,120	67.8

[1] All Qualified Nursing Staff includes all qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff as well as GP practice nurses.

Notes:

1. The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication. Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components.
2. Data as at 30 September 2010.

Data Quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses

Sources:

1. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics
2. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-medical Workforce Census
3. Office for National Statistics, 2009 Final Mid-Year Population Estimates (2001 census based), Adjusted May 2010 to reflect revisions to migration methodology

NHS: Reorganisation

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether KPMG has provided advice to his Department on its proposals for NHS reforms; and if he will make a statement; [57087]

(2) whether *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers, *(c)* senior officials and *(d)* special advisers in his Department have (i) contacted and (ii) met Mark Britnell since May 2010. [57088]

Paul Burstow: No advice has been provided to the Department on the national health service reforms by KPMG.

No Ministers or special advisers have made contact with or met Mark Britnell since May 2010. No senior officials of the Department at permanent secretary or director-general level have contacted or met Mark Britnell in an official capacity since May 2010. Ministers and senior officials may from time to time attend external events at which delegates from KPMG may be in attendance.

NHS: Standards

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made on the disaggregation of outcome indicators within the NHS Outcomes Framework 2011-12 by *(a)* age, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* religion or belief, *(d)* gender, *(e)* disability and *(f)* sexual orientation. [56544]

Paul Burstow: Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 places a general Equality Duty on listed public authorities, including national health service organisations and the Department, to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality and promote good relations. Information is key to providing transparency to evidence progress made in reducing inequality in line with the three aims of the Equality Duty.

On 17 March 2011, a 'policy review' was launched by the Minister for Women and Equalities. This review proposed a less process orientated approach to equality. Any proposals around the development of additional policy metrics by the Department would need to be within the context of the results of that policy review.

In Annex A of "The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011-12", published in December 2010, we set out an initial assessment of the data availability of indicators that can be disaggregated by equality and health inequalities characteristics. We are currently assessing these breakdowns, as well as others, with data suppliers.

A copy of "The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011-12" has already been placed in the Library.

NHS: Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff of each NHS trust are entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 per annum; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56456]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally. It is for employers and representatives of locally recognised trade unions to agree in partnership local agreements and procedures that are appropriate to local circumstances.

NHS: Training

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much per capita his Department spent on training nurses in each of the last five years; [56477]

(2) how much per capita his Department spent on training doctors in each of the last five years. [56480]

Anne Milton: The Department does not hold data in the requested format.

Education and training of the health care workforce includes central funding through the multi professional education and training (MPET) budget and funding by local national health service organisations. The Department does not analyse MPET expenditure between health care professions and does not hold data on the amount of spend on education and training by local NHS organisations.

Occupational Therapy: Manpower

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS occupational therapists there are per 100,000 population in each NHS region. [56507]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table gives the number of occupational therapists per 100,000 population in each national health service region as at the 30 September 2010, the date of the last NHS workforce census.

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified occupational therapy staff in England per 100,000 population by strategic health authority area as at 30 September 2010

	Number
England	34.3
North East Strategic Health Authority area	39.1
North West Strategic Health Authority area	35,0
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	34.6
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	38.0
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	33.3
East of England Strategic Health Authority area	29.4
London Strategic Health Authority area	32.8
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	32.5
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	29.5
South West Strategic Health Authority area	41.8

Notes:
1. Figures are calculated using headcount staff in post figures.
2. Figures are rounded to one decimal place.
3. Staff in post figures are as at 30 September 2010. Population figures are ONS estimates for 2009.
4. 2009 is the latest available population data.

Sources:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.
Office for National Statistics 2009 final mid-year population estimates (2001 census-based).

Prion Working Group

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the terms of reference of the Prion Working Group. [56502]

Anne Milton: The remit of the United Kingdom Blood Services' Prion Working Group (PWG) is:

> "The working group will advise the UK Blood Services on the most appropriate ways to ensure the safety of blood, cells, tissues and organs for transfusion/transplantation in relation to risk associated with prion proteins. Its remit includes:
>
> 1. acting as a single source of blood, tissue and organ related scientific advice on prion transmission related issues;

2. being the single point of contact between UK Blood Services and manufacturers of prion filters and prion assays, and any other technology to reduce prion risk;

3. providing advice on the requirements for evaluation of prion filters, prion assays and any other new technology to reduce prion risk;

4. acting as the primary point of contact between UK Blood Services and collaborating institutions including the Health Protection Agency (Efficacy and endogenous hamster infectivity studies), Roslin Institute (Sheep endogenous infectivity studies), Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease Oversight Committee of the National Institute of Biological Standards and Control (Prion assay sensitivity) and non-UK Blood Services;

5. overseeing both .current and future evaluation projects on behalf of the UK Blood Services;

6. taking ownership and reviewing the UK Blood Services position statement on vCJD and risk assessments on behalf of Standing Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Infection (SACTTI) on an annual basis, or more frequently if required;

7. providing advice on non-negative samples identified in any prevalence study conducted by the UK Blood services."

The PWG terms of reference are:

"In formulating its advice, the working group will:

take full account of the scientific evidence available, including the nature of uncertainties and assumptions used to reach conclusions;

identify specific areas of research where further work is required to reduce uncertainty;

consider the impact of its advice on all stakeholders in the blood, tissue and organ supply chains, including but not exclusively donors, patients, the UK blood services and the wider National Health Service;

take full account of the need to maintain the safety of .blood, tissues and organs, operating under the remit of the Precautionary Principle;

take account of the financial implications of assessing or introducing new technologies to mitigate the risk of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease transmission by blood, tissues or organs;

act independently of any commercial organisation with whom it works and, proactively identify potential conflicts of interest;

maintain confidentiality of any data made available to it as per confidentiality agreements;

work closely with Scientific Advisory Committees and the Joint United Kingdom Blood Transfusion Services and National Institute of Biological Standards and Control Professional Advisory Committee (JPAC) on the approval of systems as suitable for use;

take full account of the work conducted by the Governments' Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO);

ultimately be accountable to the UK Forum."

Public Expenditure

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how frequently he plans to assess the effect of inflation on the real-terms increase in his Department's budget; [56242]

(2) what estimate he has made of the future level of inflation at which any real-terms increase in his Department's budget would cease. [56243]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are committed to real terms increases in health spending, as set out in "The Coalition: our programme for government". The Government are meeting this commitment.

The Office for Budget Responsibility produces projections for measures of inflation at least twice a year.

Radiotherapy: Finance

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 527, on radiotherapy: finance, whether NHS hospital trusts are able to apply directly to his Department for additional investment for radiotherapy; and whether any such applications have been received by his Department; [57188]

(2) whether the allocation of funding to primary care trust baselines for the period 2011-12 to 2014-15 will be adjusted to take account of *(a)* planned expenditure and *(b)* assessed need; [57189]

(3) to which primary care trusts additional funding for 2011-12 will be allocated. [57190]

Paul Burstow: 'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer' sets out our commitment to expand radiotherapy capacity by investing over £150 million in additional funding over the next four years. National health service trusts cannot apply directly to the Department for this funding, as this money is allocated to all primary care trusts (PCTs) through their recurrent revenue allocations for 2011-12 and 2012-13. From 2013-14, it is intended that the NHS Commissioning Board will take over the allocation of resources from the Department.

Recurrent revenue allocations are currently made to PCTs on the basis of a weighted capitation formula, used to determine PCTs' target shares of available resources to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need. Once allocated, it is for PCTs to use this funding to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities.

Speech Therapy: Manpower

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many speech and language therapists employed in the public sector there are per 10,000 population. [56505]

Anne Milton: The following table gives the number of speech and language therapists employed in national health service hospitals or community health services per 10,000 of population as at 30 September 2010, the date of the last NHS work force census. The NHS Information Centre do not hold data on people with this speciality who may be employed in the wider public sector.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified Speech and Language Therapy staff in England per 10,000 population by strategic health authority area as at 30 September 2010

	Number
England	1.4
North East Strategic Health Authority area	1.6
North West Strategic Health Authority area	1.4
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	1.3
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	1.2
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	1.4
East of England Strategic Health Authority area	1.2
London Strategic Health Authority area	2.4
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	1.4

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified Speech and Language Therapy staff in England per 10,000 population by strategic health authority area as at 30 September 2010

	Number
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	1.2
South West Strategic Health Authority area	1.5

Notes:
1. The NHS IC only holds information on speech and language therapists employed by NHS hospitals or community health services. We do not hold data on speech and language therapists employed elsewhere in the wider public sector.
2. Figures are calculated using headcount staff in post figures.
3. Figures are rounded to one decimal place.
4. Staff in post figures are as at 30 September 2010. Population figures are ONS estimates for 2009.
5. 2009 is the latest available population data.

Sources:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census
Office for National Statistics 2009 Final Mid-Year Population Estimates (2001 census based)

St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the North West Strategic Health Authority to discuss the future of St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust; and who was present at each such meeting. [57182]

Paul Burstow: The Secretary of State for Health met with NHS North West on 15 February 2011 to discuss the wider national health service reform programme and implications for the region. This meeting included discussing the implications of the reforms for St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust alongside other NHS organisations in the region. In attendance at the meeting were the NHS chief executive and the chair and chief executive of NHS North West.

In addition, the managing director of provider development and director of provider delivery from the Department of Health have met with NHS North West to discuss the plans being agreed for the remaining NHS trusts to achieve foundation trust status by April 2014.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and *(c)* the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56453]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) currently employ 3.4 whole-time equivalent staff to work as trade union officials. Of these, 2.8 whole time equivalents are elected by the Public and Commercial Services Union and the remainder by Prospect. All are 'full-time' (ie 100% of their time is dedicated to union duties) and all are paid more than £25,900 annually.

The First Division Association union representative is not a 'full-time' union official and salary costs are met by the directorate that employs him.

In the financial year 2010-11, there were 3.4 whole-time equivalent staff. The cost of salaries was £210,826. Other costs incurred by these officials, such as for expenses, are met by their respective unions.

All other union officials, such as branch executive officers and local union representatives are covered by the Department's facility time agreement and are not full-time. As the time spent on industrial relations is minimal, their salary costs are met by local directorates. It is not, therefore, possible to make an estimate of the cost of these activities and to collect this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The Department, the MHRA and the recognised trades unions place high value on fostering and maintaining good industrial relations. We work in partnership to achieve shared aims, objectives and outcomes. The granting of reasonable facilities and facility time by the Department and its agencies to the recognised trades unions makes an important contribution to the success of the organisation.

The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency closed on 31 December 2009.

Whiston Hospital: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what submissions his Department has received from the Strategic Health Authority on potential solutions to the financial problems at Whiston hospital; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such document. [57181]

Paul Burstow: The Department receives routine financial information from national health service trusts, including St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, the host organisation for Whiston hospital. Analyses of this information are published regularly by the Department. There have been no separate submissions received by the Department from the Strategic Health Authority on the financial position of Whiston hospital.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Education

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the executive director of UN Women on increasing the level of education for girls and women during her recent visit to the UK. [57020]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I had wide-ranging discussions with Michelle Bachelet, executive director of UN Women, when she visited the UK on 16-17 May, including on my Department's Strategic Vision for Girls and Women. This will work in 23 country programmes and support over nine million children in primary school, at least half of which will be girls, and put at least 700,000 girls into secondary education by 2014. Ms Bachelet agreed that educating girls was crucial and explained how UN Women will work closely in partnership with other UN organisations like UNICEF and UNESCO to improve girls' education.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to ensure that teacher training delivered under his Department's commitment in the Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews *(a)* is of a high quality and *(b)* includes participatory and inclusive teaching methods to enable marginalised children including girls and children with disabilities to participate in classroom activities. [57021]

Mr O'Brien: Supporting countries to develop realistic plans for recruiting, training and retaining teachers is an integral part of sector planning, which the Department for International Development (DFID) supports in all countries where we have education programmes. DFID provides technical expertise and guidance to partner countries to help ensure that teacher training is of high quality and that teachers are responsive to the needs of all their students, including the marginalised.

DFID has published a guidance note on inclusive education for children with disabilities in developing countries. This note, available on the DFID website, offers practical suggestions on how teachers can support children with disabilities to access education and learn effectively.

Developing Countries: Fisheries

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing tradable permit schemes to improve fisheries management in developing countries. [56197]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made a specific assessment of the merits of introducing tradable permit schemes to improve fisheries management in developing countries. However, DFID supports the Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF) which aims to improve the contribution of fisheries to African economic growth and food security. A key objective of the partnership will be the development and eventual implementation of a Comprehensive African Fisheries Reform Strategy. The PAF and the World Bank have both promoted the idea of 'rights-based' fisheries management, of which tradable permits are one possible approach.

Developing Countries: Sustainable Development

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support the sustainable development of urban environments in developing countries. [56205]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has a number of programmes that support the sustainable development of urban environments. These are focused on the poorest urban residents who often live in marginalised areas, subject to flooding and other environmental threats, with very limited services for effluent and waste disposal.

For example, in Bangladesh, DFID is working through the United Nations Development Programme to support slum improvements in 34 towns and cities which will benefit three million people over six years. DFID supports private sector programmes including the community-led infrastructure financing facility which provides capacity building and loan finance for slum development projects that are implemented in the urban environments of India, the Philippines and Kenya. Research on urbanisation and infrastructure is also being supported through the international growth centre.

Overseas Aid

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to make legally binding the target to spend 0.7 per cent. of gross national income on overseas aid by 2013. [56683]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The coalition Government have set out how we will meet our commitment to spend 0.7% of national income as overseas aid from 2013. We will enshrine that commitment in law as soon as the parliamentary timetable allows.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/272 will be incorporated into his Department's diplomatic policy on the Middle East. [55787]

Alistair Burt: I have been asked to reply.

The UK voted in favour of the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/272 in order to reinforce our support to the UN Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) management reform process and to acknowledge UNRWA's critical financial situation.

The UK, through the Department for International Development (DFID), has been working closely with UNRWA to ensure that robust management reform plans are implemented to achieve maximum efficiency. DFID has a five year agreement with UNRWA to provide un-earmarked funding to UNRWA's general budget which includes a performance tranche payable if UNRWA meets agreed targets for reform. UNRWA is committed to reform and to date has received the additional tranche of funding each year.

Trade Unions

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial support his Department has provided to *(a)* the National Union of Teachers, *(b)* the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, *(c)* the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, *(d)* the National Association of Head Teachers and *(e)* schemes run by those organisations in each year since 1997. [56431]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development has provided funding to the National Union of Teachers through a grant beginning in April 2009 under the Development Awareness Fund. Details of this funding are available in the Library of the House. I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 7 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 215W.

All DFID's support for programmes to raise awareness of international development is currently being reviewed.

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff of his Department are entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56445]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has one full-time member of staff allocated to trade union activities under a 'facility time' agreement. There are three other elected trade union representatives who spend a minimal amount of time on trade union activity. The salary of the full-time staff member was in the range of £30,000 to £35,000 in 2010-11.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bahamas: High Commissions

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has considered the merits of reopening the British high commission in the Bahamas. [56800]

Mr Lidington: I refer to the statement made by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the House on 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1165-68:

> "We will now reverse the previous Government's policy of closing embassies and reducing our diplomatic presence in key parts of the world".

In the Caribbean we will keep our existing network fully open and staffed. But, regrettably, due to pressures on our resources, we will not be opening new posts there.

British Nationals Abroad: Criminal Investigation

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what provision his Department makes for legal assistance to British nationals under investigation without charge but unable to leave countries such as the United Arab Emirates. [56807]

Mr Lidington: If a British national is subject to a travel ban, consular staff can assist by providing a list of local English-speaking lawyers, information about any organisations or charities that may be able to help, and can contact family and friends in the UK on their behalf if they are unable to do so easily. We are unable to give legal advice. We will consider approaching the local authorities if there are concerns that a British national subject to the local law is not treated in line with applicable international standards. Guidance for the support we offer to British nationals in difficulty abroad is explained in our publication 'Support for British nationals abroad: A guide', which is also available on the FCO website.

Burma: Prisoners

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise at the United Nations the recent announcement by the Burmese authorities of an amnesty in order to establish the nature of the amnesty and any differentiation made by the government of Burma between criminals and those held for their political beliefs. [57071]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Burmese Government announced on 16 May that it had reduced the sentences of all prisoners by one year and commuted all death sentences to life imprisonment. Reports indicate that over 14,000 prisoners have been released but we think that only 47 were political prisoners, who were anyway nearing the end of their sentences. We also understand that over 300 death sentences were commuted and note that no death sentences have been carried out in Burma for over 20 years. The UK made clear in a closed session of the UN Security Council on 19 May that the amnesty falls far short of the demands and expectations of the international community, which has repeatedly called for the release of all of Burma's over 2,000 political prisoners. Burmese law criminalises basic civil and political rights and the Burmese authorities have frequently denied the existence of prisoners of conscience claiming that all have been guilty of criminal offences.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55740]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Consular Directorate holds four contracts which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas.

(i) FedEx Express to deliver legalised documents to customers overseas (who may or may not be a British National). This contract allows FedEx Express to store personal data of customers requiring this service. The data are held in Memphis, USA and under the terms of the contract FedEx Express are required to observe all data protection provisions, including only holding the data as long as is reasonably necessary. There are approximately 250 customers who use this service per week and as of 16 May 2011, there were 1,750 people who had their data stored by FedEx Express under this contract.

(ii) The British Red Cross, who provide psycho-social support to British Nationals following a consular crisis overseas. The Red Cross hold all data in the UK and are fully compliant with the Data Protection Act 1998.

(iii) Teleperformance to provide a call-centre service to respond to inquiries on our Travel Advice. Some callers to this service may request to be sent one of our travel advice leaflets. In these cases, Teleperformance will take a name and address from that caller and will use it to send out the requested leaflet. These data are stored in the UK, in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. During a consular crisis the contract we have with Teleperformance is sometimes extended to include crisis related calls. At such times the contractor briefly stores personal data of British citizens who may be overseas and transfers these to the FCO to provide crisis related assistance. Teleperformance does not archive these data.

(iv) Snap Survey. In June 2011, Consular Directorate will launch a customer satisfaction survey, using software provided under license from SnapSurveys.com. Respondents to the survey (who may or may not be a British National) can submit contact details if they would like Consular Directorate to get in touch with them to give further customer feedback. These data are stored by Snap, in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998, in the UK. There are currently no data stored under this contract.

Other non consular contracts which allow contractors to store personal data are not kept centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56063]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has a contract with Vodafone which provides mobile telephones and data services in the UK.

A full list of all suppliers abroad is available only at disproportionate cost because budgets are devolved to our network of over 260 posts, which have contracts with local mobile telephone providers.

European Union: Publicity

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will have discussions at EU level on reducing the funding spent by the EU on publicity campaigns. [56498]

Mr Lidington: While it is important for institutions such as the EU to communicate effectively with the general public, spend on this should be efficient, affordable and proportional. Funding levels for the EU to communicate its work publicly, as for all other EU activities, will be decided within the negotiations on the EU 2012 Budget. Within those negotiations, this Government are seeking substantial reductions in spend and greater efficiency across all areas of the Budget.

International Criminal Court

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage states that do not recognise the International Criminal Court to do so. [56653]

Mr Lidington: We, together with EU partners, regularly lobby all countries that have not yet done so to take steps towards ratification of the Rome Statute and implementation of the statute into their domestic legislation. This will ensure that the International Criminal Court's (ICC) jurisdiction continues to expand and that States Parties are able to fully co-operate with the ICC's investigations.

The most recent occasion was on 5 April 2011, when our embassy in Kathmandu raised this issue with the Nepalese Government as part of an EU lobbying exercise. We underlined our commitment to this issue during the ICC's Review Conference in Kampala in June 2010, where we also made a pledge to promote ratification and implementation within the Commonwealth.

Libya: Cluster Munitions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the use of cluster munitions in Libya; and if he will make a statement. [56307]

Mr Hague: We are aware of media reports of the use of cluster munitions by Gaddafi regime forces, in particular around Misrata. We and our North Atlantic Treaty Organisation allies do not use cluster munitions.

Middle East

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to hold discussions with the US administration on the Middle East following the visit by President Obama to that region. [57070]

Alistair Burt: We regularly discuss middle east issues with US counterparts and will continue to do so, including during the forthcoming State visit of President Obama to the UK from 24-26 May 2011.

Middle East: Politics and Government

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* reports he has received on and *(b)* assessment he has made of the implications for the Middle East Peace Process of the agreement of 27 April 2011 between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas; what discussions he has had with (a) the government of Israel, (b) the Palestinian Authority, (c) the Arab League and (d) his US counterpart on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [54843]

Alistair Burt: The reconciliation agreement was signed at a ceremony in Cairo on 4 May 2011, attended by President Abbas for the Palestinian Authority; Khaled Mishaal for Hamas and the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Nabil el Araby. A representative from our embassy in Cairo attended as an observer, along with key EU partners.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on 4 May 2011 and discussed the announcement on Palestinian unity. We renew our calls on both sides to commit to peace talks, leading to a Palestinian state that exists in peace and security alongside Israel. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has been clear that Britain hopes that the announcement of reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas will lead to the formation of a Government that rejects violence and pursues a negotiated peace, and we will judge a future Palestinian Government by its actions and its readiness to work for peace.

We will continue to monitor the situation and discuss it with the Palestinian Authority, Arab League and US via our British Missions.

North Korea: Foreign Policy

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the objectives are of UK policy on North Korea. [56677]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK shares the widely-held international objective of a North Korea which does not pose a threat to regional or global security, and adheres to international law and conventions, including on human rights.

To achieve this, the UK pursues a policy of critical engagement. We support international efforts towards a complete and verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, through sanctions and talks between relevant parties. We also have diplomatic relations with North Korea. Such engagement enables us to raise difficult issues, which is important particularly during times of heightened tension. It also allows us to carry out a programme of humanitarian projects and English Language Teacher Training.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has allocated in respect of the Queen's Birthday celebrations in British Embassies in *(a)* each of the last three years and *(b)* 2011 to date. [55801]

Mr Lidington: Budgets in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, including the amount spent on the Queen's birthday celebrations, are devolved to over 260 posts. As details are not held centrally, this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

UN Security Council

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to seek reform of the UN Security Council. [56329]

Mr Hague: Her Majesty's Government support UN Security Council reform and are working with international partners on this. We continue to support the aspirations of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan as well as African representation for permanent seats on the Council. Earlier this month officials attended Security Council Reform Workshops in Doha and Rome. At these meetings the UK encouraged all member states to engage constructively in the process of reform.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* EU and *(b)* UN counterparts on the political situation in Yemen. [55149]

Alistair Burt: The focus of the UK is encouraging the ruling party and the official opposition in Yemen to reach agreement on peaceful transition. The Government recognise the urgency with which a political settlement in Yemen must be reached to avoid further violence and a deepening economic crisis. To this end we have actively engaged our international partners, including the EU, to encourage unified and strong messaging to the Government of Yemen and the parliamentary opposition.

I welcome the support given by Baroness Ashton, the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission. In light of reports that both the ruling party and the opposition agreed to the Gulf Co-operation Council transition plan she issued an EU declaration on behalf of the 27 member states urging all parties to move quickly to finalise the plan. Our officials have been working intensively alongside EU missions in Sana'a and European capitals to garner support for the latest initiative. My officials will continue to liaise with our EU counterparts to maintain the momentum of recent progress towards a democratic, peaceful and inclusive transitional process.

After the visit to Yemen in April by the UN Special Adviser, Jamal Benomar, when he met a wide range of Yemeni, UK and EU officials, the UN Security Council discussed Yemen for the first time since the political crisis began. Mr Benomar returned to Yemen in early May, and again met UK colleagues. Further meetings with senior colleagues are expected during Mr Benomar's forthcoming trip to the UK. The international community is becoming increasingly focussed on Yemen, and I welcome the intensification of all our efforts to see a quick and peaceful resolution to the current situation.

Zimbabwe: British Nationals

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report,* column 406W, on Zimbabwe: British nationals abroad, what information on safety and security his Department provides to UK citizens wishing to relocate to Zimbabwe and not only to travel to or through that country. [57191]

Mr Bellingham: The "Living Abroad" page on the FCO website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/living-overseas/

and the "Going to Live Abroad" booklet:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/going-to-live-abroad

give generic tips on starting life abroad.

Our Travel Advice for Zimbabwe gives general advice to British nationals travelling to Zimbabwe whatever the purpose of their visit at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/zimbabwe

If the move is business related, Overseas Security Information for Business (OSIB), a joint FCO/UKTI venture, provides information at:

http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/howwehelp/osibupdatesinfo.html

The UK in Zimbabwe website provides information on Living in Zimbabwe at:

http://ukinzimbabwe.fco.gov.uk/en/help-for-british-nationals/living-in-zimbabwe/

EDUCATION

Special Educational Needs

19. **Penny Mordaunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress he has made on the reform of provision for children with special educational needs in *(a)* Portsmouth North constituency and *(b)* England. [56592]

Sarah Teather: We published a Green Paper "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability" on 9 March. This is out to consultation until 30 June. We will consider responses carefully before taking forward our reforms. We will shortly be inviting tenders for pathfinders to test proposals in the Green Paper. Within the general framework for special needs provision, it is for local authorities to determine the particular arrangements in their areas.

Capital Funding: Liverpool

20. **Stephen Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much capital funding he has allocated for schools in Liverpool during the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [56593]

Michael Gove: The Department has allocated £30.6 million to two academy projects in Liverpool, and a further £12.3 million to Liverpool schools in 2011/12. Further allocations will be announced in due course, informed by the recommendations made in Sebastian James' report.

Disadvantaged Children

21. **Amber Rudd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to improve the educational achievement of disadvantaged children in *(a)* Hastings and Rye constituency and *(b)* England. [56594]

Tim Loughton: In Hastings and Rye, disadvantaged children will benefit from a pupil premium of £430 per pupil to ensure they receive the support they need. Funding of £625 million is available in 2011-12, rising to £2.5 billion a year by 2014-15.

The pupil premium will be allocated to schools according to the number of pupils who are known to be eligible for free school meals or have been looked after continuously for at least six months.

Human Trafficking: Child Victims

22. **Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department has allocated to non-governmental organisations to provide safe homes for child victims of human trafficking in 2011-12. [56595]

Tim Loughton: The Department has provided a grant of £521,360 for 2011-12 to Barnardo's to deliver a project which will work with local authorities to train specialist carers in providing safe fostering placements for victims of child sexual exploitation and trafficking. A further grant of £876,360 for 2012-13 will be made to Barnardo's, providing they meet their first year targets, to allow them to build on and improve capacity for this specialist service.

Free Schools

24. **Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many expressions of interest in establishing a free school his Department is proceeding with. [56597]

Michael Gove: My Department is working with 26 groups which have submitted applications for free schools and are now in the pre-opening stage. I expect to receive a large number of high quality applications in June for the next round. We have had very strong interest indeed from parents, teachers and others wanting to set up new, high quality free schools.

Geraint Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proposals for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary free schools he has received in each local authority area; and what the (i) proposed start date and (ii) pupil capacity is in each case. [55836]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* To date 40 proposals have been approved by the Secretary of State to proceed to business case and plan stage or beyond. We expect a number of these proposed schools to open in September 2011 with others opening in the following years. Until the approval and admissions processes are complete, it is not possible to provide accurate pupil numbers.

A breakdown of the 40 proposals is provided in the following table with details of their locations and school phase:

Name of school	*Local authority*	*Phase*
All Saints Junior School	Reading	Primary
ARK Atwood Primary Academy	Westminster	Primary
ARK Bolingbroke Academy	Wandsworth	Secondary
ARK Conway Primary Academy	Hammersmith and Fulham	Primary
Atherton Free School	Wigan	Secondary
Barwick's Own 2nd Secondary School	Stockton-on-Tees	Secondary
Batley Grammar School	Kirklees	All through
BBG Parents Alliance	Kirklees	Secondary
Bedford and Kempston Free School	Bedford borough	Secondary
Brandon Free School	Suffolk	Secondary
Bristol Free School	Bristol	Secondary
Canary Wharf College	Tower Hamlets	All through
Discovery New School	West Sussex	Primary
Eden Primary School	Haringey	Primary

Name of school	*Local authority*	*Phase*
Etz Chaim Jewish Primary School	Barnet	Primary
Harris Peckham Primary Free School	Southwark	Primary
King's Science Academy	Bradford	Secondary
Krishna-Avanti Primary School	Leicester City	Primary
Langley Hall Primary Academy	Slough	Primary
Maharishi School	Lancashire	All through
McAuley College Academy	Kingston upon Hull	Secondary
Moorlands School	Luton	Primary
Nishkam Free School	Birmingham	Primary
Phoenix Academy of Performance Arts	Northamptonshire	Secondary
Priors Free School	Warwickshire	Primary
Rainbow Primary School	Bradford	Primary
Redbridge Primary School (E-ACT)	Redbridge	Primary
Rivendale Free School	Hammersmith and Fulham	Primary
Sandbach School	Cheshire East	Secondary
Shooters Hill Primary School of the Arts	Greenwich	Primary
St Luke's C of E Primary School	Camden	Primary
St Michael's Catholic Secondary School	Cornwall	Secondary
Stoke-by-Nayland High School	Suffolk	Secondary
Stour Valley Community School	Suffolk	Secondary
Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School	Blackburn with Darwen	Secondary
The Free School, Norwich	Norfolk	Primary
Three Valleys Independent Academy	Rotherham	Secondary
We Need A School	Hertfordshire	Secondary
West London Free School	Hammersmith and Fulham	Secondary
Woodpecker Hall Primary Academy	Enfield	Primary

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many groups have expressed an interest in establishing a free school in *(a)* Weaver Vale constituency and *(b)* England. [56373]

Mr Gibb: When the initial application round closed in February 2011, the Department for Education had not received any proposals for free schools from groups in the Weaver Vale constituency but had received a total of 323 proposals for England as a whole. The application round for free schools planning to open in September 2012 has recently opened and we are expecting many further proposals.

City Challenge

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the City Challenge programme in London. [56577]

Mr Hayes: Last year, the Secretary of State approved an evaluation of the City Challenge programme, to enable us to fully assess its effectiveness. This will report towards the end of 2011 and copies will be placed in the Library. Our initial view, supported by an Ofsted report published in December, is that the programme had been helpful in raising school standards. That is why our broader programme of school improvement builds on its successes.

Child Protection Services

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the provision of child protection services of reductions in local authority budgets. [56596]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has not made its own assessment, but I am aware of the research that has been carried out by other organisations in respect of the choices that local authorities are making. It is for local authorities to determine the allocation of their resources and I am sure that in doing so they will be taking in to account the needs of the most vulnerable children and young people.

Primary Schools: Foreign Languages

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to improve the teaching of modern foreign languages in primary schools; and if he will make a statement. [56488]

Mr Gibb: In advance of decisions following the review of the National Curriculum on which subjects will be statutory, we strongly encourage primary schools to continue teaching languages and building on the good progress already made. We will also be funding the provision of specific language support services for primary schools from the autumn of 2011.

Academies

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools have *(a)* converted and *(b)* applied to convert to academy status in (i) Pendle, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England. [55595]

Mr Gibb: At present, no schools in Pendle have applied to convert to academy status. In Lancashire seven schools have applied, of which six have opened as academies.

Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010/11, can be found on the DfE Academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the value for money of increasing the number of academies. [55947]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 May 2011]:* During the passage of the Academies Act 2010 the Department published an impact assessment which included reference to the benefits and costs of increasing the number of academies. A copy has been placed in the House Libraries.

Children: Abuse

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will discuss with representatives of the Roman Catholic Church the compatibility of the provisions of the Vatican's recent circular letter on guidelines for dealing with cases of sexual abuse of minors in respect of the responsibility of bishops for dealing with child abuse cases with the general responsibility to report cases of child abuse to the appropriate authorities. [57068]

Tim Loughton: There are no plans for such discussions. I understand that the letter referred to emphasises the importance of bishops following national requirements for reporting such abuse to the designated authority. I have no reason to believe that the Roman Catholic Church is in any doubt about the fact that all cases of suspected child abuse should be reported to local children's social care services or the police.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55870]

Tim Loughton: Between the period 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011 the Department did not receive any invoices from tier 1 suppliers.

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around his Department's premises; and how much such cameras cost to *(a)* install and *(b)* operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56834]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has 105 CCTV cameras across its four sites as follows:

London: 43;
Darlington: 14;
Runcorn: 25; and
Sheffield: 23.

The higher number of cameras in London reflects the size of the facility and the additional risks arising from the building's location within the central London Government Secure Zone.

The cost of installing the CCTV systems for London, Darlington and Runcorn is not available due to the age of the installations being over six years.

The cost of the installation of the CCTV system at 2 St Paul's Place in Sheffield forms part of the overall refurbishment cost for the building in 2009 and is not separately identifiable. Two additional cameras have been installed since the refurbishment at a cost of £464.

The current annual cost for maintenance of the CCTV systems across the four sites is £4,666.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56760]

Mr Gibb: Information about research and data collections which have been initiated, terminated and amended in the last 12 months (between 17 May 2010 and 18 May 2011), and research and data collections undertaken by the Department which have not been amended in that period has been placed in the House Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of the withdrawal of education maintenance allowance on participation in further education by young people from low-income families whose distance from college entails high travel costs; and if he will make a statement. [56515]

Mr Gibb: The equality impact assessment for the ending of education maintenance allowance and the introduction of the 16-19 bursary funding is available on the Department for Education website at:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/1/ema%20replacement%20scheme%20%20%20equality%20impact%20assessment.pdf

The 16-19 bursary funding will enable schools, colleges and training providers to support students facing the greatest financial barriers to participation, including the cost of transport.

Education: Finance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report,* columns 280-81W, on education: finance, whether his Department has made an assessment of the effects of reductions in funding for student support services in *(a)* further education colleges, *(b)* sixth form colleges and *(c)* schools. [54386]

Mr Gibb: The Department has not made a formal assessment of the effects of reductions in funding for student support services in further education colleges, sixth-form colleges and schools. The Government have increased by £150 million the amount available for disadvantaged funding, additional learner support and Foundation Learning, to ensure that funding is targeted where it is most needed. The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund will, in addition, allow schools, colleges and training providers to award bursaries to students in ways that best fit local needs and circumstances. Further education colleges, sixth-form colleges and schools will have the flexibility to determine the most appropriate use of funding in order to meet the needs of their students.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1144W, on students: finance, whether a receipt of a guaranteed bursary will be conditional on students meeting any set standards. [56472]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* Subject to the result of the consultation on new financial support arrangements, we expect that schools, colleges and training organisations will make receipt of a 16-19 bursary—including bursaries guarantees to young people from vulnerable groups—conditional on a student meeting expected standards, for example, of attendance, behaviour or standard of work. Similar systems are already in place for education maintenance allowance, and schools and colleges have told us that the ability to set conditions is important for promoting a positive attitude to education.

Foster Care

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people who had been in local authority foster care in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority enrolled in an undergraduate course in each of the last five years. [55513]

Tim Loughton: Information on the number of care leavers aged 19 in each local authority who are in higher education, who were also looked after aged 16 and whose final placement on ceasing was in foster care, is shown in the following table.

Information at parliamentary constituency level is not collected centrally.

Children aged 19 years old who were in higher education (i.e. studies beyond A level) and who were looked after aged 16 years (in their 17th year in a foster placement as their final placement when they ceased to be looked after[1,2,3]. Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2010. Coverage: England

Number

	2006[4]	*2007[5]*	*2008[6]*	*2009[7]*	*2010[8]*
England	230	220	240	260	270
North East	10	x	10	10	10
Darlington	0	0	x	x	0
Durham	0	x	x	0	x
Gateshead	x	0	x	0	x
Hartlepool	0	0	0	0	x
Middlesbrough	0	0	0	x	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	x	x	x	x	x
North Tyneside	0	0	x	x	x
Northumberland	0	x	0	0	x
Redcar and Cleveland	0	0	0	0	x
South Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0
Stockton-on-Tees	0	0	0	0	0
Sunderland	x	x	x	x	x
North West	20	30	30	30	30
Blackburn with Darwen	x	0	0	0	x
Blackpool	0	0	0	x	0
Bolton	x	0	x	0	x
Bury	0	0	x	0	0
Cheshire[9]	x	x	x	x	n/a
Cheshire East[9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
Cheshire West and Chester[9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Cumbria	0	x	x	x	x
Hatton	0	0	x	0	0
Knowsley	0	0	0	x	x
Lancashire	x	x	x	x	0
Liverpool	0	x	x	x	0
Manchester	x	x	0	5	x

Children aged 19 years old who were in higher education (i.e. studies beyond A level) and who were looked after aged 16 years (in their 17th year in a foster placement as their final placement when they ceased to be looked after[1,2,3]. Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2010. Coverage: England

					Number
	2006[4]	*2007[5]*	*2008[6]*	*2009[6]*	*2010[6]*
Oldham	x	x	x	x	x
Rochdale	0	x	0	0	0
Salford	x	x	x	x	0
Sefton	x	0	x	0	0
St. Helens	x	x	0	x	x
Stockport	0	x	x	0	5
Tameside	0	0	x	0	x
Trafford	0	x	x	x	x
Warrington	0	x	0	0	x
Wigan	x	x	x	0	0
Wirral	0	x	x	x	x
Yorkshire and the Humber	10	10	20	10	20
Barnsley	0	0	0	0	0
Bradford	0	x	x	x	x
Calderdale	0	x	0	x	0
Doncaster	0	0	x	0	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	x	0	x
Kingston upon Hull, City of	x	x	x	x	0
Kirklees	0	0	x	x	0
Leeds	5	x	x	x	x
North East Lincolnshire	x	x	x	x	x
North Lincolnshire	0	x	x	0	x
North Yorkshire	x	x	0	0	x
Rotherham	0	0	0	x	00
Sheffield	0	x	x	x	x
Wakefield	0	x	x	0	x
York	x	0	0	0	0
East Midlands	10	x	10	20	10
Derby	x	x	x	0	x
Derbyshire	x	x	x	x	0
Leicester	x	x	x	x	x
Leicestershire	0	0	0	x	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	x	x	x
Northamptonshire	0	x	0	x	x
Nottingham	x	0	x	0	x
Nottinghamshire	0	x	0	x	x
Rutland	0	0	x	0	0
West Midlands	30	20	30	40	40
Birmingham	15	5	5	10	5
Coventry	x	0	0	x	x
Dudley	x	0	x	x	5
Herefordshire	0	0	x	x	x
Sandwell	5	x	5	x	5
Shropshire	0	0	0	x	0
Solihull	x	x	0	x	x
Staffordshire	x	x	0	x	x
Stoke-on-Trent	0	0	0	x	x
Telford and Wrekin	x	0	0	x	x
Walsall	x	0	0	x	x
Warwickshire	x	x	5	x	x
Wolverhampton	0	x	0	x	x
Worcestershire	x	x	5	x	x
East of England	20	20	30	20	20
Bedfordshire[8]	x	0	x	x	n/a

Children aged 19 years old who were in higher education (i.e. studies beyond A level) and who were looked after aged 16 years (in their 17th year in a foster placement as their final placement when they ceased to be looked after[1,2,3]. Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2010. Coverage: England

Number

	2006[4]	*2007*[5]	*2008*[6]	*2009*[7]	*2010*[8]
Bedford Borough[9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Central Bedfordshire[9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
Cambridgeshire	10	x	x	x	x
Essex	0	5	5	x	x
Hertfordshire	x	10	5	x	5
Luton	0	0	x	x	0
Norfolk	x	0	x	x	x
Peterborough	0	x	x	0	x
Southend-on-Sea	x	0	0	5	0
Suffolk	5	0	x	x	x
Thurrock	x	x	x	0	x
London	90	80	80	90	90
Inner London	50	40	30	30	50
Camden	x	10	x	x	x
City of London	0	0	0	0	0
Hackney	10	x	0	0	x
Hammersmith and Fulham	10	0	x	0	x
Haringey	x	x	x	x	10
Islington	x	x	0	0	x
Kensington and Chelsea	x	x	0	0	x
Lambeth	x	0	x	5	5
Lewis ham	0	x	x	x	x
Newham	5	x	x	x	15
Southwark	x	x	x	x	x
Tower Hamlets	x	0	5	x	x
Wandsworth	5	x	x	x	x
Westminster	x	5	x	x	x
Outer London	30	40	50	70	40
Barking and Dagenham	0	x	10	10	x
Barnet	x	x	5	x	x
Bexley	0	0	0	x	x
Brent	0	x	x	x	x
Bromley	0	0	x	x	0
Croydon	10	x	10	25	10
Ealing	x	x	x	x	x
Enfield	x	x	x	0	0
Greenwich	x	x	x	x	x
Harrow	0	x	x	x	0
Havering	0	0	x	0	0
Hillingdon	x	15	x	x	x
Hounslow	x	x	0	0	x
Kingston upon Thames	x	0	0	x	0
Merton	x	x	x	x	x
Redbridge	x	x	x	0	x
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	x	x
Sutton	0	0	x	x	x
Waltham Forest	x	0	x	x	0
South East	30	30	30	30	40
Bracknell Forest	x	0	0	0	0
Brighton and Hove	x	0	x	0	x
Buckinghamshire	x	x	x	x	x
East Sussex	x	x	0	x	x
Hampshire	x	x	x	0	x

Children aged 19 years old who were in higher education (i.e. studies beyond A level) and who were looked after aged 16 years (in their 17th year in a foster placement as their final placement when they ceased to be looked after[1,2,3]. Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2010. Coverage: England

					Number
	2006[4]	*2007*[5]	*2008*[6]	*2009*[8]	*2010*[8]
Isle of Wight	x	x	x	0	0
Kent	x	x	x	x	10
Medway Towns	x	x	x	x	x
Milton Keynes	x	0	0	0	x
Oxfordshire	x	x	x	0	x
Portsmouth	x	x	0	0	x
Reading	x	0	0	x	x
Slough	x	x	x	0	0
Southampton	0	x	x	0	0
Surrey	x	x	x	x	x
West Berkshire	0	0	x	x	5
West Sussex	x	5	5	5	x
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	x	0	0
Wokingham	0	0	x	0	0
South West	20	10	20	20	20
Bath and North East Somerset	x	0	x	0	x
Bournemouth	0	x	0	x	0
Bristol, City of	x	0	x	x	x
Cornwall	x	x	x	x	x
Devon	0	0	0	x	x
Dorset	0	x	x	0	0
Gloucestershire	x	x	x	x	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	0	x	0	x	x
Plymouth	x	0	x	x	x
Poole	0	0	x	x	0
Somerset	x	x	x	x	x
South Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0x
Swindon	0	0	0	0	
Torbay	x	0	x	0	x
Wiltshire	x	x	x	x	x

n/a = not applicable

x = Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality

[1] England and regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. Other numbers have been rounded to the nearest five. For confidentiality purposes, numbers from one to five inclusive have been replaced by a cross (x).

[2] Figures exclude children who were looked after on 1 April aged 16 (in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[3] Includes children who were in full and part-time higher education which was collected separately from 2006-07.

[4] Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2003 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year).

[5] Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2004 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year).

[6] Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2005 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year).

[7] Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2006 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year).

[8] Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2007 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year).

[9] In 2009, Cheshire local authority split in to Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester. Similarly, Bedfordshire LA split into Bedford borough and Central Bedfordshire.

Source:
SSDAQ03

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children in each local authority area were in foster care in each of the last six years. [55725]

Tim Loughton: Information on the number and percentage of children who were in foster care, in each local authority area, in each of the last six years, has been placed in the House Libraries.

This information, for year ending 31 March 2010, has also been published in tables LAA2 and LAA3 in the Statistical First Release 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2010', which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

Health Education: Nutrition

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to require schools to teach more about food and nutrition. [56784]

Mr Gibb: At present food is one of the components that may be studied at Key Stage 3 within the design and technology curriculum. On 20 January, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced that we are conducting a review of the national curriculum at both primary and secondary levels. This review includes consideration of the status of design and technology (and all its constituent modules).

Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator: Consultants

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator paid to *(a)* Grant Thornton in relation to the study on the Collection of Economic and Financial Information, *(b)* Frontier Economics in relation to the study on the Markets for Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, *(c)* Reckon LLP in relation to the study on Increasing Transparency of Qualification Fees, *(d)* PKF (UK) LLP in relation to the study on the Review of Awarding Bodies' Fees, *(e)* Grant Thornton in relation to the study on the Reasonableness of Fees in Other Widely Used Qualifications and *(f)* PricewaterhouseCoopers in relation to the Efficiency Study of the Regulated Qualifications System. [56747]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation and I have asked its chief executive, Glenys Stacey, to write directly to the hon. Member. A copy of her reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Primary Education: Capital Investment

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of funding allocated to Sefton council under the Primary Capital programme for building projects beginning in 2011-12 has been withdrawn; and how many schools in Sefton local authority area have had funding withdrawn for building projects under the programme. [55661]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 May 2011]:* The Primary Capital programme was one of a number of targeted funding streams which ended in 2010-11. The Department has reduced the number of ring-fenced capital programmes for 2011-12, enabling local prioritisation of funding.

Sefton county council and its schools have been allocated £7,695,229 of capital funding for 2011-12. Decisions about priorities for investment rest with the local authority.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what additional monies he estimates will be spent funding the pupil premium in Crewe and Nantwich constituency in the financial year 2011-12. [55999]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 May 2011]:* The January 2010 school censuses allow an estimate of the number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals to be made. In maintained schools and academies in the Crewe and Nantwich constituency in January 2010 there were 2,135 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £918,050. In addition to this there were eight pupils known to be eligible for the Service child premium, paid at a lower rate of £200 per pupil, which would give rise to a further £1,600. However, these are estimates only and are based on data for January 2010. It is not possible to determine the number of parliamentary constituency pupils recorded on the alternative provision census or recorded as looked after as they are both local authority, rather than establishment level, returns.

Tables that contain the estimates based on the figures from the January 2010 census, disaggregated by local authority, region and constituency have been placed in the Libraries. Figures from the January 2011 census will be published in June.

School Meals: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was paid to each school in Peterborough local education authority area in respect of the school lunch grant under the dedicated schools grant in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [55992]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 May 2011]:* The Department does not hold information about how much was paid to each school in Peterborough in respect of the school lunch grant. However, the total paid to Peterborough local authority in each year since 2005 is as follows:

	£
2005-06	215,771
2006-07	324,562
2007-08	327,423
2008-09	312,452
2009-10	302,495
2010-11	298,278

From 2011, the funding for the school lunch grant is part of the schools' baseline funding announced in the spending review. The funding will not be ring-fenced as the Government believe that schools need more freedom to decide how to deploy their resources to meet the needs of their pupils. It will be for schools and local authorities to decide how to spend the funding in line with their priorities while consistent with the delivery of statutory nutritional standards.

Schools: Admissions

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children living in each local education authority (LEA) area attended a *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school outside their LEA area in the last year for which figures are available. [55949]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 May 2011]:* The latest information showing how many and what proportion of children living in each local authority attended a school outside their local authority area in January 2010 is available in the publication 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2010'. This publication is available on the Department's website at the following address:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

The information requested about *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools is available in tables 15a and 15b at the following address:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/sfr09-2010xbmvv2.xls

The information in this publication is based on data collected in the January 2010 school census. Information based on the January 2011 school census is scheduled to be published in June 2011.

Teachers: Training

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of evidence he considers before outlining his plans for initial teacher training to be school-based. [56884]

Mr Gibb: We intend to publish shortly a strategy document for general discussion giving details on our plans for initial teacher training reform, including for school-based training. A copy of the document along with the responses where permission is given for them to be made public will be placed in the House Libraries.

Teaching Methods

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the teaching methods used in the instruction of reading, writing and arithmetic during initial recruit training in the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force and examine how the resulting changes in educational attainment might be replicated in mainstream schools. [56700]

Mr Gibb: I understand that a range of approaches to the teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic will be used during initial training in the armed services, to enable the recruits to reach the required standard. The Government are currently assessing how standards in schools can be raised and have outlined their plans in the Schools White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" which was published on 24 November 2010.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many staff of his Department are entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56439]

Tim Loughton: The Department's trade union facilities agreement allows for three full-time trade union posts. The overall cost of trade union activity in the Department is capped at 0.2% of the paybill. For 2010-11 the overall salary expenditure to staff on trade union duties was £210,000, including the three full-time posts costing £92,000. In 2010-11, there were 39 trade union officials including the three full-time posts. The three staff engaged in the full-time posts were the only staff paid more than £25,900 annually for trade union duties.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advantage West Midlands: Assets

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which assets owned by the West Midlands Regional Development Agency his Department has approved for sale; what the value is of each such asset; which further assets his Department plans to sell; and what the estimated monetary value is of those assets. [56127]

Mr Prisk: Advantage West Midlands, alongside the seven other regional development agencies (RDAs) outside London, have put forward proposals for the disposal of a proportion of their land and property assets. Details of the sites expected to be sold in the short-term have been made available via the BIS website and the House Libraries. It would not be in the interest of securing best value for the taxpayer to indicate the assumed value of individual assets prior to sale. RDA boards remain responsible for determining which RDA assets should be sold. Decisions on further disposals will be announced in due course.

Arms Trade: Exports

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answers of 9 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 1173W and 31 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 475-76W, on the arms trade: exports, for which countries arms export licences have been revoked as a result of his Department's review of export licences announced on 18 February 2011 since 15.00 on 3 March 2011; how many *(a)* individual and *(b)* open licences were revoked in respect of each country; and what the date of revocation was in each case. [55031]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 12 May 2011]:* Since 15.00 on 3 March the following licences have been revoked:

Libya

One standard individual export licence (SIEL) was revoked on 4 March.

Bahrain

Bahrain was removed as a permitted destination from two open individual export licences (OIELs) on 4 March, three OIELs on 9 March and one OIEL on 30 March.

Egypt

Egypt was removed as a permitted destination from two OIELs on 4 March and one OIEL on 12 May.

The review is ongoing as we continue to monitor how the situation develops in this region.

Business

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on measures to promote opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises to win contracts with large corporations as *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* resellers of products and services; and if he will make a statement. [56615]

Mr Prisk: It is not the role of Government to intervene directly with respect to private sector contracts. However, the Government are committed to supporting small business to overcome barriers to growth and to access new markets through a range of new business improvement initiatives. These include:

a national website and a national contact centre;

the new Business Coaching for Growth programme; and

a national mentoring network which will bring together existing networks of mentors in the voluntary and private sectors to provide advice to small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

In addition, specialist support is available to SMEs through UK Trade and Investment and the Manufacturing Advisory Service.

We have also taken a number of steps to remove barriers to small businesses accessing public procurement opportunities. This includes promoting the use of the Government's single public procurement web portal—Contracts Finder—by prime suppliers to advertise appropriate sub-contracting opportunities.

Computer Software: Exports

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the export by UK businesses of internet filtering technologies and products in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [56392]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director-General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to ask what information the Department holds on the export by UK businesses of internet filtering technologies and products in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [56392]

I regret that the ONS does not separately identify this specific item or therefore publish statistics relating to it.

The latest UK Balance of Payments Statistical Bulletin can be found at the following web link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=1118

Credit

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to prohibit the use of facsimile signatures on credit agreements. [56655]

Mr Davey: The Call for Evidence issued as part of the Government's Consumer Credit and Personal Insolvency Review asked for views on rationalising the requirements around signing of agreements.

The responses are being considered and the Government will make an announcement on next steps before the summer recess. Any proposal will need to balance appropriate protection for consumers and increased efficiency for lenders while providing clarity on the signature requirements for credit agreements.

Domestic Service: Conditions of Employment

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely level of legal protection for domestic workers under the proposed International Labour Organization Convention on Domestic Workers. [56716]

Mr Davey: There has not yet been final agreement on the proposed convention, so it is not possible to comment in detail on the level of protection it would offer at this stage. The matter is to be discussed further at the forthcoming International Labour Conference. The Government will seek a workable convention that can be ratified by as many countries as possible, and consequently protect vulnerable domestic workers worldwide.

Environment Protection

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress his Department has made on the green economy roadmap. [56530]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* Over recent months, this Department has been working with the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to develop a Roadmap to a Green Economy that will provide businesses with the longer term clarity they have been seeking from Government. The Departments have been looking at the evidence available and engaging with key stakeholders to understand the priorities and needs of business.

The roadmap will be published this July. It will set out the Government's goals in enabling the transition to a green economy, the business and investment environment that is required and the policies that we will put in place to shape that business environment.

EU External Trade: India

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the Mode 4 component sought by India in the EU-India Free Trade Agreement negotiations; what requests have been made by India in respect of the redefinition of categories; what his policy is on minimum salary requirements for intra corporate transfers; when he expects a decision to be taken on the number of people to be admitted under the agreement; and if he will make a statement. [57176]

Mr Davey: The EU-India Free Trade Agreement is still under negotiation. It is possible an outline deal may emerge by the summer.

As part of the ongoing negotiation, we are assessing the requests India has made in Mode 4. These raise issues around lengths of stay, definitions of categories and sectoral coverage. We expect the agreement to be consistent with the Government's current policy of applying minimum salary requirements to intra-company transferees coming to the UK.

Government Departments: Bureaucracy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to reduce administrative burdens and bureaucracy in government. [55219]

Mr Prisk: We recognise that badly-designed regulation and red tape can stifle enterprise and business growth and have set out a clear aim—to leave office having reduced the overall burden of regulation.

The coalition agreement set out an ambitious agenda for dealing with the burden of red tape on businesses.

In September, the Government introduced the One-in, One-out rule for new regulations so a new regulatory burden cannot be introduced without identifying another to be removed first. In December, we introduced a new approach to transposing EU directives, to end 'gold plating' and ensure they are not transposed in such a way that they disadvantage UK businesses relative to their EU competitors. In March we introduced sunset clauses in new regulations which impose a cost on businesses to ensure they remain relevant and are fit-for-purpose.

Last year, we launched a series of formal reviews in areas which impose a particular burden on business, such as the Lord Young review of health and safety laws and the ongoing employment law review.

In 'The Plan for Growth', published alongside the Budget 2011, as part of a package of measures to improve the UK's regulatory environment, the Government announced that micro-businesses (those with fewer than 10 employees) would be exempt from all new domestic regulation for three years. We also decided not to extend the right to request time to train to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), potentially saving SMEs approximately £350 million and not to bring forward the dual discrimination provision, saving business up to £3 million per year.

Last month, the Prime Minister launched the Red Tape Challenge website:

www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

which asks the public and businesses to identify regulations that need to be amended or removed. Every few weeks regulations affecting one specific sector or industry will be published on the website. There is also the opportunity to comment on cross-cutting areas of regulation, such as employment law.

Green Economy Council

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the agenda was for the most recent meeting of the Green Economy Council. [56503]

Mr Prisk: The most recent meeting of the Green Economy Council on 16 February discussed the council's terms of reference and the Government's Roadmap to a Green Economy, which is currently being developed.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date the most recent meeting of the Green Economy Council was held. [56504]

Mr Prisk: The last meeting of the Green Economy Council took place on the 16 February.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times the Green Economy Council has met since its establishment. [56531]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* The Green Economy Council has met once since its establishment. Further meetings are planned.

Green Investment Bank

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) when he plans to announce the appointment of the chairperson of the Green Investment Bank; [56527]

(2) whether he has any plans to establish a shadow management board for the Green Investment Bank prior to its launch. [56528]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* The Government will announce their plans for the Green Investment Bank later this month (May 2011). These will set out governance arrangements, including prior to the bank's launch.

Harwell Science and Innovation Campus

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department has provided to organisations located at the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus in each of the last five years. [52489]

Mr Willetts: This Department's capital and resource funding to organisations located at Harwell in the last five years, delivered via the main funding partners (Science and Technology Facilities Council, Medical Research Council, Natural Environment Research Council, International Space Innovation Centre and UK Atomic Energy Authority) was as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	205.4
2007-08	211.2
2008-09	218.1
2009-10	196.3
2010-11	[1]147.8

[1] Incomplete as data come from different sources: some is unavailable as the data are unaudited, while some are provisional.

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether officials in his Department with policy responsibility for dealing with anti-Semitism in universities *(a)* have regular access to and *(b)* read Jewish weekly newspapers in the course of their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [56613]

Mr Willetts: Policy officials have access to a range of information sources to ensure they are well informed about issues facing the Jewish community in higher education. This will include relationships with other Government Departments and direct contact with external partners such as the Union of Jewish Students and the Community Security Trust. Officials will access the media where this is a necessary part of their duties.

Higher Education: Employment

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken to encourage the development of links between employers and universities. [56298]

Mr Willetts: We are working with partners such as the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES), the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) and others, to encourage further development of the links between employers and higher education institutions (HEIs). These relationships help deliver a more highly skilled work force, more effective use of our research base, and support for innovation and economic growth in key sectors. For example:

We have asked UKCES to bring together employers in particular sectors to identify their evolving skills priorities and get them to collaborate in tackling their own skills needs through partnerships with universities and colleges;

To ensure universities work more closely with business, we have maintained the Higher Education Innovation Funding at £150 million a year to support a broad range of knowledge exchange activities, and are introducing reforms which increase incentives for the most effective HEIs; and

The Technology Strategy Board (TSB) are establishing a network of Technology and Innovation Centres (TICs) to help commercialise the outputs of our world-class research base and further bridge the gap between universities and businesses. TICs will allow businesses to access equipment and expertise that would otherwise be out of reach, help them access new funding streams, and point towards the potential of emerging technologies. TICs will receive £200 million in the current spending review period. The first will focus on high-value manufacturing, and TSB will run competitions in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to create an elite network of six to eight such TICs.

We will continue to encourage close and sustained engagement between employers and universities that promote such high-level skills, knowledge transfer and collaborative research initiatives, to the benefit of business, the higher education sector and the wider economy.

Higher Education: Vocational Guidance

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has assessed the *(a)* availability and *(b)* quality of careers advice in universities. [56297]

Mr Willetts: Being independent, autonomous bodies the responsibility for providing careers advice within universities lies with the institutions in question. The vast majority of university careers offices are members of the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) which is the professional association for higher education careers practitioners:

www.agcas.org.uk

Accreditation against matrix

www.matrixstandard.com

the Government quality standard for information, advice and guidance, is a criterion for institutional membership of AGCAS. AGCAS services also abide by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)'s code of practice:

www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/codeOfPractice/section8/default.asp

They also deliver a full range of professional development training via a suite of qualifications for careers staff in association with the university of Warwick.

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/cll/othercourses/careerstudies/

Improving information for students is a key part of our future plans for higher education. The Higher Education Funding Council for England has consulted on proposals that higher education institutions should publish, from September 2012, a standard set of 17 key information items, for each course, on their websites. The information is based on what research shows that students want: information about costs, previous student satisfaction, employment outcomes and number of contact hours.

The coalition Government are committed to improving the quality of careers advice for everyone, including students. We will establish the national careers service in England from April 2012 which will provide independent and expert advice to help young people and adults progress in learning and careers. Advisers in the service will have access to clear information about higher education courses and sources of funding.

Higher Education: Work Experience

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the employment prospects of graduates who undertake integrated work-based placements as part of degree courses. [57409]

Mr Willetts: In general employers say they are happy with the quality of UK graduates (National Employers Skill Survey 2009, UKCES 2010). However, they believe that graduates could be better provided with generic employability skills such as team working, leadership, etc. Higher education institutions are increasingly offering such programmes, including practical work experience placements, as part of their provision. We would like to see more of this approach and will, in our forthcoming White Paper, be highlighting to students, the higher education sector and employers the benefits of such activity.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely level of economic growth in areas not covered by local enterprise partnerships in each year to 2014. [56352]

Mr Prisk: No assessment has been made of the likely level of economic growth in areas not covered by local enterprise partnerships in each year to 2014. Currently 94% of all active enterprises are covered by a local enterprise partnership and we are continuing to work with new partnerships as they develop their proposals.

Manufacturing Industries

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to improve the status and profile of manufacturing as a career path; and if he will make a statement. [56871]

Mr Prisk: To improve the perception of manufacturing as a career path, the Government are funding STEMNET, a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics network which provides resources for students, teachers and professionals. We have also set up a programme of exhibitions on manufacturing, engineering and design and will shortly be piloting a series of open days in the automotive sector through the 'See Inside Manufacturing' initiative which will see companies like General Motors and Jaguar Land Rover open their doors to school children and students. This will be rolled out to other manufacturing sectors.

Nuclear Engineering: Training

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the UK's capacity to train nuclear engineers. [56355]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has had no recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence on the UK's capacity to train nuclear engineers.

Overseas Students

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students who are nationals of *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China attended (i) universities and (ii) colleges in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [56337]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) regarding students in UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is shown in Table 1. It is compulsory for HEIs to record a student's domicile, whereas nationality is not compulsory, therefore figures based on domicile have been provided. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will be available in January 2012.

Table 1: Enrolments[1] by country of domicile, UK Higher Education Institutions, academic year 2009/10

Country of domicile	*Enrolments*
Brazil	1,315
Russian Federation	3,245
India	38,500
China	56,990

[1] Covers enrolments to postgraduate and undergraduate full-time and part-time courses.

Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Table 2 shows the number of learners participating in Further Education in colleges with a country of domicile of Brazil, Russia, India and China in 2009/10, the latest year for which final data are available. Information on the nationality of learners in Further Education is not available, therefore country of domicile has been provided.

Government funded learning as recorded on the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) for Further Education is restricted to home learners. Therefore funded learners who are non EEA (European Economic Area) nationals must have been resident in the UK for the three years preceding their course start date and the main purpose for residence was not to receive full-time education during any part of that three year period. There are a limited number of exceptions to this, for example—refugees, learners with indefinite leave to remain status, or learners studying under reciprocal exchange agreements.

Table 2: Further Education learner participation in colleges by country of domicile, 2009/10

	FE learner participation
Brazil	110
China	200
India	290
Russia	50
Total	650

Notes:
1. These data include learning in the Learner Responsive, Apprenticeships and Other work-based learning funding streams delivered in General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges, Special Colleges—Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.
2. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Post Offices: Closures

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post offices have closed since May 2010. [56853]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of the Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Wales

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post offices in Wales have closed since May 2010. [57143]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of the Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Press: Competition

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings the Competition Minister has had with representatives of *(a)* newspaper and magazine publishers, *(b)* news and magazine wholesalers, *(c)* newspaper and magazine retailers and *(d)* the Office of Fair Trading on the exemption of news and magazine suppliers from the requirements of section 131 of the Enterprise Act 2002. [56663]

Mr Davey: I have not had any meetings relating to exempting newspaper and magazine suppliers from the requirements of section 131 of the Enterprise Act 2002.

Research: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what provision he has made for any revenue running costs arising from the additional capital expenditure on science announced in the Budget 2011. [52798]

Mr Willetts: We are not expecting any net increases in running costs arising from these projects. Formal allocations of the additional Budget 2011 capital funding for science will be subject to BIS approval of the Research Council and UK Space Agency business cases for each project. These business cases will identify where there are any increases to running costs arising from the capital projects and will explain how these costs will be funded from available resources and any future revenue.

Research: Procurement

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's policy is on encouraging publicly-funded research centres to procure machinery manufactured in the UK. [57266]

Mr Willetts: All procurement of equipment or other products and services by publicly funded research centres is undertaken on the basis of open and competitive tendering procedures, as required by the EU procurement directives and UK Government guidance issued by the Cabinet Office.

Rolls-Royce

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will meet relevant hon. Members and trade union officials from Rolls-Royce to discuss his Department's Plan for Growth. [56354]

Mr Prisk: I met hon. Members and trade union officials from Rolls-Royce on 22 March to discuss a range of issues. If there are specific questions about the Plan for Growth, it would be helpful if the hon. Member could write to me setting them out. We also have close and regular contact with Rolls-Royce's senior management team.

The first phase of the growth review was reported at Budget 2011. Some 117 measures were announced in 'The Plan for Growth', and the majority of these measures are incorporated in published departmental business plans. The growth review will last the lifetime of this Parliament to provide an ongoing focus on what Government can do to support growth. The next phase will include a key focus on the successful implementation of these measures. Progress on delivering these actions, and on the next phase, will initially report in autumn 2011.

Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what arrangements his Department has in place to *(a)* reduce levels of and *(b)* support staff diagnosed with work-related stress. [48294]

Mr Davey: This Department has a range of measures in place to reduce levels of and to support staff diagnosed with stress and related conditions.

People with a long-term health condition or disability may request reasonable adjustments in the workplace in order to help them perform their job effectively and to the best of their ability. These in-depth assessments are carried out by a specialist disability management service provider.

All staff have access to a confidential Employee Assistance Programme providing support and advice.

Where staff are absent for a period of two weeks or more for stress or related conditions, the Department seeks early advice from our occupational health service provider on the support that can be offered to facilitate an early and effective return to work.

This Department is currently developing a BIS Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which includes more support for line managers who manage individuals with anxiety, depression or stress. We have identified individuals with a susceptibility for being absent on these grounds to ensure that they are accessing available support.

Students: Finance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 717W, on students: finance, what progress he has made with the Central Office of Information in developing its information campaign to communicate student finance arrangements to prospective students. [56292]

Mr Willetts: The first phase of our campaign to get information to prospective students and their families about our student finance reforms was launched on 9 May. It uses a mixture of radio, press and digital advertising.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 717W, on students: finance, what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Central Office of Information on the development of an information campaign to communicate student finance arrangements to prospective students; and on what date each such meeting took place. [56293]

Mr Willetts: BIS officials are in regular contact with the Central Office of Information to discuss the best way to provide information about our student finance reforms to prospective students and their families. I met with the Central Office of Information and officials on 4 April 2011 to review the proposals for the recently launched public information campaign.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 493W, on students: finance, to which organisations and websites the key facts e-flyer has been sent. [56294]

Mr Willetts: To date, the following organisations and websites have received the e-flyer.

Organisations and websites

Universities UK, Guild HE, Russell Group, 1994 Group, Million+, University Alliance, 157 Group, Mixed Economy Group, Association of Colleges, Association of Learning Providers, Higher Education Policy Institute, Sutton Trust, Universities Marketing Forum, Higher Education External Relations Association, Royal Institute of British Architects, British Dental Association, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Research Councils UK, Confederation of Business Industry, Council of Validating Universities, British Academy, APPG on Personal Finance Education, Helena Kennedy Foundation, Consumer Finance Education Body, Credit Action, Higher Education Statistics Agency, Action on Access, Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, Higher Education Liaison Officers Association, National Association of Student Money Advisers, Association of Managers of Student Services in Higher Education, National Association for Managers of Student Services in Colleges, Institute of Careers Guidance, Association for Careers Education and Guidance, National Association for Educational Guidance for Adults, Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, Association of Career Professionals, Careers Research and Advisory Centre, Universities and Colleges Employers Association, National Union of Teachers, Association of Teachers and Lecturers, University and College Union, Association of School and College Leaders, National Association of Head Teachers, National Association of Independent Schools and Non-Maintained Special Schools, Sixth Form Colleges Forum, Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, Teach First, Future First, Association of Colleges National College, BPP, Kaplan, Buckingham university, School of Finance, Institute of Contemporary Music Performance, College of Law, Resource Development International, National Union of Students, UK Youth Parliament, Youth Net, The Student Room, Push, BrightsideUniAid, Fullonmag, Personal Finance Education Group, moneysavingexpert.com, Opendays, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, Office of the Independent Adjudicator, Higher Education Funding Council for England, Office for Fair Access, UCAS, Student Loans Company, Anglia Ruskin university, Aston university, Bath Spa university, Birkbeck college, Birmingham City university, Bishop Grosseteste university college, Bournemouth university, Brunel university, Buckinghamshire New university, Canterbury Christ Church university, Central School of Speech and Drama, City university London, Conservatoire for Dance and Drama, Courtauld Institute of Art, Coventry university, Cranfield university, De Montfort university, Edge Hill university, Goldsmiths college, University of London, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Harper Adams university college, Heythrop College, Imperial College London, Institute of Education, Keele university, King's College London, Kingston university, Lancaster university, Leeds College of Music, Leeds Metropolitan university, Leeds Trinity university college, Liverpool Hope university, Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, Liverpool John Moores university, London Business School, London Metropolitan university, London School of Economics and Political Science, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London South Bank university, Loughborough university, Manchester Metropolitan university, Middlesex university, Newman university college, Norwich university college of the Arts, Nottingham Trent university, Open university, Oxford Brookes university, Queen Mary, university of London, Ravensbourne, Roehampton university, Rose Bruford College, Royal Academy of Music, Royal Agricultural College, Royal College of Art, Royal College of Music, Royal Holloway university of London, Royal Northern College of Music, Royal Veterinary College, School of Oriental and African Studies, School of Pharmacy, Sheffield Hallam university, Southampton Solent university, St George's Hospital Medical School, St Mary's university college, Staffordshire university, Thames Valley university, Arts university college at Bournemouth, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, University college Birmingham, University college Falmouth, University college London, University college Plymouth St Mark & St John, University for the Creative Arts, university of Bath, university of Bedfordshire, university of Birmingham, university of Bolton, university of Bradford, university of Brighton, university of Bristol, university of Cambridge, university of Central Lancashire, university of Chester, university of Chichester, university of Cumbria, university of Derby, university of Durham, university of East Anglia, university of East London, university of Essex, university of Exeter, university of Gloucestershire, university of Greenwich, university of Hertfordshire, university of Huddersfield, university of Hull, university of Kent, university of Leeds, university of Leicester, university of Lincoln, university of Liverpool, university of London, university of Manchester, Newcastle university, university of Northampton, university of Northumbria at Newcastle, university of Nottingham, university of Oxford, university of Plymouth, university of Portsmouth, university of Reading, university of Salford, university of Sheffield, university of Southampton, university of Sunderland, university of Surrey, university of Sussex, university of Teesside, university of the Arts London, university of the West of England Bristol, university of Warwick, university of Westminster, university of Winchester, university of Wolverhampton, university of Worcester, university of York, Writtle college, York St John university, Government Departments, MPs and Peers.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 493W, on students: finance, which organisation processed the typesetting of the key facts e-flyer; and on what date his Department commissioned the work. [56295]

Mr Willetts: Communisis was commissioned on 7 March to typeset the facts e-flyer.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 717W, on students: finance, what funding he has allocated for communicating student finance arrangements to prospective students for *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [56296]

Mr Willetts: To date the Department has allocated £1.475 million to the recently launched information campaign aimed at potential students considering entering university from September 2012.

The Student Loans Company has allocated some £1.3 million in the current financial year to provide information, advice and guidance aimed at informing and encouraging potential students to apply for the student support available from September.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 717W, on students: finance, which advertising agency he has appointed to support the campaign to communicate higher education finance options to prospective students. [56301]

Mr Willetts: Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe—part of the Young and Rubicam Group has been appointed to develop our campaign to communicate information about student finance reforms to prospective students and their families.

Students: Loans

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much and what proportion of the amount lent each year in student loans he estimates will be written off under the new arrangements for student finance and tuition fees since universities announced their proposed fee levels for 2011-12; and whether his Department has revised those estimates. [55437]

Mr Willetts: For 2011-12 we are forecasting that of the amount of student loans issued, both tuition fee and maintenance, around 30% will not be repaid. The tuition fee arrangements for 2011-12 will remain as they are now; a university will be able to charge up to £3,375 for tuition fees and a student will be able to apply for this amount as a tuition fee loan. Information on the arrangements for student finance for 2011-12 can be found on

www.direct.gov.uk

For 2012-13 we are forecasting the same level of non repayment of loans issued as although students will be borrowing more for tuition fees their terms of repayment will increase to 30 years and the percentage of their income that will be repaid when they earn over £21,000 will be 9%.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he made of the potential effect on student participation levels of the determination of the interest rate on student loans by reference to the retail prices index; and if he will make a statement. [56518]

Mr Willetts: We are not proposing to change the measure of inflation used to determine the interest rate on student loans, and do not therefore expect there to be an impact on student participation levels.

The retail price index (RPI) has been used since the introduction of student loans as the basis for determining interest. We will continue to use it for this purpose; the real rate of interest that will apply to student loans while the student is studying and to higher earners will use RPI as the basis for determining inflation.

These proposals have been carefully costed and are fair, reasonable and affordable in the long-term.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he made of the potential effect on participation by students with family responsibilities of setting student loan repayment liability for part-time students from three and a half years after borrowing; and if he will make a statement. [56519]

Mr Willetts: Part-time students will become liable to repay from 6 April following the third anniversary of the start date of their course, even if they are continuing to study. If the study period is less than three years, an individual will start repaying the loan in the April after the course finishes.

Part-time students will repay at a rate of 9% above £21,000 and no one is expected to repay until they earn more than £21,000.

This date has been chosen as it is consistent with the repayment date that will typically apply to full-time students.

This balances the needs of the student with those of the tax payer, as it secures repayments from part-time students who earn more than £21,000 at the earliest reasonable opportunity while also affording protection to low-earning graduates.

Because the earnings threshold at which repayments start will be raised to £21,000, more low earners, including many part-time workers, will fall below the repayment threshold. The new system will particularly benefit those (both men and women) who take time out to have a family and the lowest-earners.

Currently, part-time students do not receive such support, so they will be in a better position with this new system.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2011, *Official Report,* column 494W, on the third sector, how much funding was provided to each charity funded by his Department in the last year for which figures are available. [56628]

Mr Davey: This Department does not make charitable donations but provides grant or grant in aid funding to some bodies that are registered charities. The following table sets out the amounts this Department has given to these bodies in financial year 2010-11.

Further information on funding to charities could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

2010-11

Bodies	*£000*
Citizens Advice	53,573
Citizens Advice Scotland	3,518
Design Council	5,755
Enterprise UK	3,627
Learning and Skills Improvement Service	47,430
The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education	2,910
University for Industry	135,212
UK Council for International Student Affairs	300
UK Skills	4,000
UK Online	5,455

Video Recordings Act 1984

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect on consumer protection of the proposed reorganisation of the Local Government Group on the enforcement of the Video Recordings Act 1984 by trading standards officers. [55913]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply.

As work on implementing changes to the Video Recordings Act has been progressing, my officials have been speaking regularly to officials at Local Government Regulation to ensure that the needs of those involved in enforcement are met.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 23 May 2011

Answers received for publication on Monday 23 May 2011

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the reason for trends in the number of new customers using the Access to Work programme in the last year; and if he will make a statement. [55943]

Maria Miller: Access to Work is a popular and successful programme and numbers helped have grown steadily in recent years. The programme supported 32,120 disabled people to keep or get employment during 2008-09 and supported 37,290 disabled people in 2009-10. Figures from April 2010 to December 2010 show that 32,680 disabled people were supported by Access to Work in that period. The figures appear to show a small decline in the numbers helped in Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 of 2010-11 but as these numbers are subject to revision it is too early to draw any inferences from this.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received support through the Access to Work programme in each quarter since its inception. [55944]

Maria Miller: Figures from the inception of Access to Work in 1997, up to end of March 2007 are not available due to unreliable data.

The following table shows the number of individuals helped on the Access to Work programme each quarter since April 2007 and up to 31 December 2010[1, 2]:

		Number
Q1	2007-08	16,610
Q2	2007-08	17,300
Q3	2007-08	17,600
Q4	2007-08	18,020
	Total number helped during 2007-08	27,720
Q1	2008-09	18,610
Q2	2008-09	19,330
Q3	2008-09	19,930
Q4	2008-09	20,840
	Total number helped during 2008-09	32,130
Q1	2009-10	21,560
Q2	2009-10	22,170
Q3	2009-10	22,860
Q4	2009-10	23,970
	Total number helped during 2009-10	37,300
Q1	2010-11	24,230
Q2	2010-11	23,910
Q3	2010-11	22,930
	Total number helped during Q1, Q2 and Q3 2010-11	32,680
	Total number helped since April 2007	73,500

[1] Source—Access to Work database. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

[2] Each person is counted once in each quarter. If a person has been helped in more than one quarter within the same financial year, they are only counted once in the total numbers helped during that financial year. If a person has been helped in more than one financial year, they are only counted once in the total numbers helped since April 2007.

Bakeries: Safety

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effects of sustained heat on people working in bakeries. [56717]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety Executive has not conducted specific research on bakeries and the effect of sustained heat on workers in those environments.

HSE has commissioned research that looks at the effects of working in hot environments that can be applied to a wide range of UK industries including bakeries. This research can be found at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr337.pdf

looked at the risks associated with manual handling in a range of thermal environments including bakeries.

http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr008.pdf

was used to provide practical web based generic guidance to UK industry on heat stress risk assessments.

In addition HSE commissioned Professor Ray Kemp to review the management of workplace temperature, and later reviewed results from a questionnaire, both of which do not support legislative review. Guidance available from the HSE website reflects these findings, and offers simple measures that may be taken to address conditions in hot workplaces:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/index.htm

Cold Weather Payments

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cold weather payments were made to pensioner households in the weather station area covering *(a)* York Central constituency, *(b)* York local authority area and *(c)* the UK in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; and what was the total value of such payments. [56658]

Steve Webb: The information available is for Great Britain and is provided in the following tables:

Number of pensioner benefit units eligible for a cold weather payment in each area in 2009-10 and 2010-11

Area	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
City of York constituency	3,700	n/a
York Central constituency	n/a	3,400
York local authority	6,000	6,000
Great Britain	2,598,300	2,601,100

Notes
1. The information relating to Northern Ireland is a matter for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.
2. The information given is for pensioner benefit units as opposed to pensioner households as cold weather payments are made to benefit units and not households. There can be more than one benefit unit in a household, e.g. where two sisters live together they would be classed as two benefit units but one household.
3. The analysis does not include pensioner benefit units who are eligible for cold weather payments because they receive employment and support allowance (income-related), as no relevant data are available. However, it is very likely that the number of people involved is small and would not change the above estimate.
4. The estimate is lower than the number of benefit units receiving pension credit because people in a care home are not eligible for cold weather payments.
5. In 2009-10 the York Central constituency was one part of the City of York constituency so figures have been given for this constituency however they are not comparable.

Source:
Analysis of 5% sample data for pension credit, income support (for recipients with a pensioner premium), jobseeker's allowance (for recipients with a pensioner premium) and the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (100% data), all for August 2009 and August 2010.

Expenditure on cold weather payments for the weather stations which cover the York Central/City of York constituencies in 2009-10 and 2010-11

£ million

Weather station	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Fylingdales	0.6	0.5
Linton on Ouse	8.5	10.7

Notes:
1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, figures given are estimates. Actuals are not available.
2. A cold weather payment is made to an eligible customer when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0°C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode. (When the temperature criterion is met, the weather station is said to trigger.)
3. Some weather stations listed are linked both to an area within the York Central and City of York constituencies and also to an area outside of it. Estimated numbers given are for the weather station as a whole, not for the part of the York Central or City of York constituencies linked to the weather station.
4. Some postcode to weather station linkages have changed from one year to the next, so estimated numbers are not always comparable from year to year.
5. Estimated expenditure is for cold weather payments triggered in the relevant financial year.
6. Cold weather payments are made to benefit units. A benefit unit can be a single person or a couple and can include children.
7. Some benefit units received more than one payment in some years.
8. Estimated expenditure has been rounded to the nearest £100,000.

Sources:
Postcode districts in the York Central and City of York constituencies: analysis of National Statistics Postcode Directory.
Postcode district to weather station links: Department for Work and Pensions records.
Estimated numbers:
scans of benefit computer systems taken at the end of October each year giving the number of potential qualifiers for cold weather payments by weather station;
Department for Work and Pensions records of triggers;
Department for Work and Pensions records of the total number of payments actually made by benefit computer system and clerically.

The estimated expenditure on cold weather payments in Great Britain in 2009-10 was £296.7 million and in 2010-11 was £430 million.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* private hire car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56111]

Chris Grayling: The following table details this Department's spend on travel for our special advisers during the period May 2010 to March 2011; further data are unavailable at present.

Travel expenditure	*May 2009 to March 2010 (£)*	*May 2010 to March 2011 (£)*	*Percentage reduction*
Rail costs	1,102	689.08	37
Air costs	8,214	277	96
Taxi costs	0	37.00	—
Total	9,316.00	1,003.08	89

Disability Living Allowance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what timetable his Department has set for the reassessment of people in receipt of disability living allowance. [56235]

Maria Miller: From 2013 we will begin to replace disability living allowance for people of working age with personal independence payment, a new, more transparent benefit and objective assessment of individual need. We expect that by 2016 all existing working age recipients of disability living allowance will have been reassessed for personal independence payment. We will continue to involve disabled people and their organisations in the design of this exercise.

We want to build on the experience of developing an assessment and applying it to new and existing claimants of working age to inform our decisions about the arrangements for children and pensioners. Therefore, we will not extend personal independence payment to children or pensioners already receiving DLA until we have had an opportunity to consider the effectiveness of the new arrangements for working age people.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has any plans to remove the mobility component payment of disability living allowance for state-funded residents in care homes after 28 days. [56466]

Maria Miller: In response to the concerns raised by individuals and organisations, we announced that we would not remove the DLA mobility component from people in residential care from October 2012 and that we would consider the needs of care home residents alongside all other recipients of DLA. We will review the existing evidence and gather more to enable us to determine the extent to which there are overlaps in provision for mobility needs of people in residential care homes.

When the work is complete we will make a final decision on the way forward. Any changes will be rolled into the introduction of personal independence payment from April 2013.

We guarantee this measure is not intended to reduce the mobility of residents in care homes. It aims to remove any overlap, not remove severely disabled people's ability to get out and about.

Employment and Support Allowance: Disability

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that persons with learning disabilities are informed of the help and support available to them from his Department. [56209]

Maria Miller: The Department provides appropriate and flexible support through a variety of channels to ensure customers with learning disabilities are informed about benefits and services available to them.

Information and help can be accessed through our online services via Directgov. We also produce leaflets in easy read format available both online and offline which provide information mainly for people with learning disabilities. Customers can also access our telephony services such as the benefit enquiry line where they are asked a range of questions to identify the most appropriate benefits available to them. This information is recorded electronically, removing the need for a claim form to be completed.

Increasingly, customers are opting to apply for jobseeker's allowance online via the "Do it online" section of the Directgov website. This provides the flexibility to access Jobcentre Plus services from their own homes, at a pace that suits them and allows them to be assisted in completing the application by an advocate or representative. Customers can also submit an initial application for employment support allowance via the internet claim service.

Should a customer be unable to use either of the options above, clerical forms can be issued or, where appropriate, we also offer face to face meetings to support the most vulnerable customers.

We also provide the customer the opportunity to appoint a representative to manage their claim on their behalf, e.g. a family member or their key worker.

Our work, with national partners such as the citizens advice bureau at a strategic and operational level, offers a holistic and joined-up service for disabled people, including those with learning disabilities.

Jobcentre Plus staff have the opportunity to learn more about the learning disability agenda through the "Raising the Game on Disability" seminar, which covers a range of pan-disability topics, but can also specifically include a session around learning disabilities, to improve the customer service experience for individuals with these conditions.

Funeral Payments

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to increase the level of co-ordination between his Department, the Department of Health and the Ministry of Justice on the guidance provided on funerals and bereavements; what plans he has to provide training for his Department's staff in this area; and if he will make a statement. [48814]

Steve Webb: DWP rolled out a new Bereavement Service in March. The service enables a bereaved customer to report a death and to find out whether they may be entitled to benefits as a result of the bereavement, in a single phone call. Where they may be entitled to a Social Fund funeral payment, or to bereavement benefit, a claim can be taken by the agent over the phone and sent directly to processing teams.

Two and a half days of training has been provided to staff delivering the Bereavement Service, including both soft skills and technical training. Staff responsible for processing completed Social Fund funeral payment claims receive four weeks' training including two weeks' consolidation. Bereavement benefit processing staff receive three weeks' training on processing new claims, which includes one week's consolidation, while training for processing bereavement benefit changes of circumstances is eight weeks' duration, including four weeks' consolidation.

It is important that bereaved customers know about the new service so that they can access the additional help available. In order to provide this information, the Directgov site will be updated by June 2011, and all relevant leaflets amended by September 2011 (timing varies to minimise extra costs). In both cases, while DWP leads on information about bereavement, publications are developed in close collaboration with colleagues in General Register Office, Ministry of Justice, Department of Health, the Probate Service and HM Revenue and Customs.

As my hon. Friend knows, my Department is also leading the way on 'Tell Us Once' and I refer him to the record of the Adjournment debate on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 146.

My hon. Friend is right in pointing out that communications need to be co-ordinated with other Government Departments, particularly within the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Department of Health. My Department has written to 60 third party organisations, including MOJ, about the new services being provided for the bereaved. Additionally it has delivered a presentation to a number of MOJ staff who will be actively involved in helping customers to access the new services.

Regarding the Department of Health, my Department wants to make sure that the messages are received by all the people who will be in a position to advise and support the bereaved within the health service and associated fields. To this end, it is conducting analysis to identify relevant areas including hospitals, hospices, specialist nurses and counsellors and residential care and nursing homes, with a view to sending them targeted information about the new services. It expects to send the communication out in the next two to three weeks to around 27,000 contacts.

Future Jobs Fund: Kirklees

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people placed in employment in Kirklees through the Future Jobs Fund are still in work. [56664]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not monitor individual outcomes for people who have been employed through the Future Jobs Fund (FJF). The FJF, at up to £6,500 per person, does not offer value for money to the taxpayer. It creates temporary, short term placements, and the grants do not include any incentives to move people into permanent employment. Recent analysis shows nearly 45% of FJF participants are claiming benefit seven months after they started FJF. There are still too many FJF participants who are failing to get a sustained job. The published version of the analysis can be found here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2011/early_analysis_of_fjf_participant_outcomes_march2011.pdf

Housing Benefit: North West England

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* Warrington affected by proposals to reduce housing benefit to those deemed to be under-occupying their property; and in each such case, what proportion are (i) disabled and (ii) over 60. [56680]

Steve Webb: The estimated impact of changes to housing benefit for working-age tenants living in the social rented sector is based upon information collected in the Department's Family Resources Survey. Because the survey collects information from a sample of households, we cannot produce reliable estimates by area below a regional level, and for the number of claimants affected by both region and disability, and region and age.

In February 2011 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) produced an equality impact assessment entitled "Housing Benefit: Size Criteria for people renting in the Social Rented Sector", coinciding with the publication of the Welfare Reform Bill. The equality impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011.pdf

The equality impact assessment included regional estimates for working-age housing benefit recipients living in social housing, under-occupying their home and who were likely to be affected by the introduction of the size criteria in social rented housing.

Government office region	*Estimated number of claimants affected*	*Affected claimants as % of working-age SRS HB claimants in each region*	*Average weekly HB loss per affected claimant (£)*[1]
North East	50,000	46	12
North West	120,000	43	12
Yorkshire and Humberside	70,000	36	11
East Midlands	50,000	37	11
West Midlands	60,000	33	14
Eastern	60,000'	36	14
London	70,000	19	21
South East	50,000	26	15
South West	30,000	28	13
Wales	40,000	42	11
Scotland	70,000	32	11
Great Britain	670,000	32	13

[1] 2013-14.

Source:

Policy Simulation Model, using 2008-09 reference data from the Family Resource Survey.

The impact assessment also included a national estimate of working age housing benefit recipients living in social housing, who were likely to be affected by the introduction of the size criteria, by disability and by age, as follows.

Disability status[1]	*Estimated number of claimants affected*	*Breakdown of working-age SRS HB claimants affected (Percentage)*	*Breakdown of all working-age SRS HB claimants (Percentage)*	*Breakdown of all SRS HB claimants (Percentage)*	*Average weekly HB loss per affected claimant (£)*
Disabled	450,000	66	56	67	13
Non-disabled	220,000	34	44	33	13
All	670,000	100	100	100	13

[1] Based upon the claimant or partner having a Disability Discrimination Act-recognised disability.

Source:

Policy 5 Simulation Model, using 2008-09 reference data from the Family Resource Survey.

Family circumstances	*Estimated number of claimants affected*	*Affected claimants as % of working age SRS HB claimants*[1]	*Average weekly HB loss per affected claimant (£)*
Age 60 and over, but under state retirement age	50,000	47	15
Under 60, couples with children	60,000	18	14
Under 60, lone parents	160,000	22	13
Under 60, couples without children	80,000	62	13
Under 60, single people	320,000	42	13
All family circumstances	670,000	32	13

[1] Within each family circumstance.

Source:

Policy Simulation Model, using 2008-09 reference data from the Family Resource Survey.

We estimate that around 120,000 of the affected working-age claimants are living in the North West. On a national basis we estimate that approximately 450,000 of the affected working-age claimants would be disabled, and approximately 50,000 would be over 60 (but below state retirement age).

Any further breakdown of the estimated impact of the degree of under-occupation by region would be based upon information from a very small number of households for many of these combinations.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed in the Jobcentre Plus contact centre directorate in the last year for which figures are available; and how many staff were employed on each of the customer service telephone lines administered by the directorate. [56880]

Chris Grayling: The following table shows contact centre directorate (CCD) full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing level over the past 13 months. CCD do not report on staffing by each service line as most telephony agents are multi-skilled and therefore handle calls on numerous service lines.

	FTE headcount
April 2010	11,441
May 2010	11,258
June 2010	11,186
July 2010	11,182
August 2010	11,024
September 2010	10,729
October 2010	10,124
November 2010	9,847
December 2010	9,649
January 2011	9,501
February 2011	9,606
March 2011	9,620
April 2011	9,306

Source:
Data extracted from OFA (Data View) 16 May 2011.

Jobcentre Plus: Preston

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which areas the Jobcentre Plus contact centre in Preston serves. [56748]

Chris Grayling: Preston Contact Centre takes calls on the National Benefit Fraud Hotline and the Local Authority Fraud Hotline. Both of these are virtual service lines so the site takes calls from customers anywhere in the UK.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls were made to each of the customer service telephone lines administered by the Jobcentre Plus contact centre directorate in each of the last 10 weeks for which figures are available; and how many such calls were *(a)* answered and *(b)* lost. [56881]

Chris Grayling: The available information on how many calls were taken by Jobcentre Plus contact centre directorate in each of the last 10 weeks has been placed in the Library. The table illustrates the number of calls that were received, answered and those which were lost.

The number of lost calls is the sum of the unsuccessful and abandoned calls.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls made to each of the customer service telephone lines administered by the Jobcentre Plus contact centre directorate were concluded within the average handling time (AHT) in each of the last 10 weeks for which figures are available; what the AHT was for each telephone line; how many calls were terminated with the inquiry outstanding; and what proportion of those outstanding inquiries received a call back from staff within three hours. [56882]

Chris Grayling: The information requested on the average handling time (AHT) for each contact centre directorate service line has been placed in the Library.

We do not keep records on the number of calls that were terminated for further action. We do know the total number of handovers made via the 0845 call logger for those service lines where it is recorded but some of these (change of circumstances) will not require a call back from the benefit centre when they are actioned.

We have shown the percentage of all call backs made within three hours per service line where available. It is not a proportion of the handovers made due to the fact that some handovers will not require a call back as mentioned above.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of those on jobseeker's allowance are supporting more than four children. [57035]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

	Jobseeker's allowance claimants supporting five or more children (Great Britain), November 2010
Total claimants (number)	1,328,910
Five or more children (number)	5,590
Proportion (percentage)	0.4

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10. Proportion is to the nearest decimal place.
2. Data are published at:
http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool
Source:
DWP Tabulation Tool, 100%

Older People: Weather

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to protect vulnerable elderly people from the effects of cold weather. [57112]

Steve Webb: The winter fuel payment provides a significant contribution to an older person's winter fuel costs and provides vital reassurance that people can afford to turn up their heating. For winter 2011-12, eligible people will receive a winter fuel payment of either £200 or £300 depending on their household circumstances.

In addition, cold weather payments can help people who are in receipt of certain benefits including pension credit with their additional heating costs during winter.

We are working closely with the Department of Energy and Climate Change on the Warm Home Discount scheme. Under this scheme, from winter 2011-12 some of the poorest pensioners will get a rebate off their electricity bills (subject to parliamentary approval). Rebates will be £120 in the first year of the scheme rising to £140 by the final year in 2014-15.

The Department for Work and Pensions also works closely with other Government Departments on the "Keep Warm Keep Well" campaign, which is aimed at vulnerable households in England and gives information on the health benefits of keeping warm in winter and details of the grants and benefits available.

Pensioners: Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of pensioners were living in poverty in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of pensioners likely to be living in poverty in each of the next four years. [56887]

Steve Webb: Estimates of pensioner poverty are published in the Households Below Average Incomes series. The most commonly used measure of pensioner poverty relates to those people with income below 60% of contemporary median income, after housing costs. This is often referred to as relative poverty.

The latest year for which data are available is 2009-10. The following table shows the percentage of pensioners with income below 60% of contemporary median income, after housing costs, in each of the most recent five years for which data are available.

	Percentage of pensioners with income below 60% of contemporary median after housing costs
2005-06	17
2006-07	19
2007-08	18
2008-09	16
2009-10	16

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. The estimates presented here are for the United Kingdom.
3. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.
6. Proportions of pensioners in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest whole percentage point.

The Department does not publish projections on pensioner poverty.

Personal Income

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the average level of earnings, including in-work benefits and tax credits, for working families in the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* average income of workless households (i) in each region of the UK and (ii) for a household comprising (A) a lone parent and (1) one child, (2) two children, (3) three children, (4) four children, (5) five children and (6) six children and (B) a couple and (1) one child, (2) two children, (3) three children, (4) four children, (5) five children and (6) six children in the latest period for which figures are available. [57079]

Maria Miller: The following tables summarise the information on average earnings and income as requested, from the Family Resources Survey 2009-10—the latest data available:

(a) Median weekly income from employment, self-employment, benefits and tax credits of benefit units containing at least one working adult

(i) By region

Region/country	*Median weekly income (£)*
North East	470
North West	481
Yorkshire and the Humber	498
East Midlands	528
West Midlands	462
East	570
London	605
South East	624
South West	525
Wales	507
Scotland	526
Northern Ireland	471
United Kingdom	533

(ii) By benefit unit composition

Composition	*Median weekly income (£)*
One adult	
One child	384
Two children	408
Three children	496
Four children	—
Five children	—
Six children	—
Seven or more children	—
Two adults	
One child	772
Two children	809
Three children	748
Four children	691
Five children	—
Six children	—
Seven or more children	—
All benefit units with children	697

(b) Median weekly total income of households containing no working adults

(i) By region

Region/country	*Median weekly income (£)*
North East	254
North West	284
Yorkshire and the Humber	258
East Midlands	268
West Midlands	269
East	297
London	289
South East	307
South West	303
Wales	268
Scotland	256
Northern Ireland	255
United Kingdom	278

(ii) By household composition

Composition	*Median weekly income (£)*
One adult	
One child	237
Two children	290
Three children	360
Four children	—
Five children	—
Six children	—
Seven or more children	—
Two adults	
One child	313
Two children	326
Three children	393
Four children	—
Five children	—
Six children	—
Seven or more children	—
Three or more adults with child/children	429
All households with children	295

— indicates the sample size is not sufficient to yield a reliable figure. *Notes:*

1. The FRS is a nationally representative sample of approximately 25,000 UK private households. Data for 2009-10, the latest year available, were collected between April 2009 and March 2010.

2. The figures from the FRS are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the estimates to region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.

3. A household is defined as a single person or group of people living at the same address as their only or main residence, who either share one meal a day together or share the living accommodation (i.e. a living room). A benefit unit is defined as a single adult or a married or cohabiting couple and any dependent children. An adult is defined as those individuals aged 16 or over, unless defined as a dependent child. An individual may be defined as a child if aged 16 to 19-years-old and they are not married nor in a civil partnership nor living with a partner; and living with parents; and in full-time non-advanced education or in unwaged Government training. An adult has been defined as working based on their self-reported economic status. Income from employment, self employment, benefits and tax credits includes: income from wages and salaries, self-employed income, tax credits and income—and non-income related benefits (including child benefit, disability living allowance, housing benefit and council tax benefit). Total household income includes income from wages and salaries, self employment, investments, tax credits, income—and non-income related benefits (including child benefit, disability living allowance, housing benefit and council tax), pensions and other sources.

4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £.

5. The Family Resources Survey is known to under-record benefit receipt so the estimates presented should be treated with caution.

Poverty: Children

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how he plans to ensure that a focus on the eradication of child poverty is maintained in implementing his proposal to replace the Child Poverty Commission with a Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission. [55855]

Maria Miller: The Government remain committed to eradicating child poverty. The Child Poverty Strategy, published on 5 April, sets out the broad range of policies which are being implemented to ensure that disadvantaged families have the help they need to lift themselves out of poverty and that children from poorer backgrounds have the same opportunities as other children to achieve their full potential as they grow up. The strategy also announces our intention to create a stronger Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission with a broader remit.

Broadening the remit of the commission will not reduce the focus on child poverty. Rather, it will ensure that poverty is considered in the context of improving life chances and reducing the intergenerational transfer of poverty. Improving life chances and increasing social mobility are absolutely necessary if we are to have a sustainable impact on child poverty and it is right that there should be an explicit requirement for the commission to consider these issues.

The changes to the commission are also intended to improve the ability of the commission to hold the Government to account. We are giving the commission a duty to publish independent annual reports assessing progress towards meeting the child poverty targets and implementing the Child Poverty Strategy. We believe that this regular independent assessment will drive progress towards our goals. It also represents a clear commitment from Government to ensure that the issue of child poverty remains high on the agenda.

Social Security Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of households who would be subject to the overall benefit cap if *(a)* child benefit, *(b)* child tax credit and *(c)* housing benefit were not included in the calculation of this cap. [57078]

Chris Grayling: We estimate that 50,000 households will be affected by the benefit cap if it is introduced as announced in the spending review. We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

Analysis of the benefit cap is based on a very small sample using survey data, therefore any assessment of options to exempt certain categories of income or groups from the benefit cap is subject to significant uncertainty. Estimates suggest that excluding child benefit from the calculation of the benefit cap may reduce the number of households affected by around 40% to 50% and excluding child tax credit or housing benefit may reduce the number of households affected by around 80% to 90%.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Jobcentre Plus and *(c)* the Pension, Disability and Carers Service are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56452]

Chris Grayling: The Department's policy on time off for trade union representatives complies with the law and reflects the code of practice issued by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Under this, the Department currently allows 16 staff to work full-time as trade union representatives, which equates to around 0.01% of our workforce. Of these, eight are employed by Jobcentre Plus and two by the Pension, Disability and Carers Service.

The Department is unable to provide data on the number of part-time representatives operating across the country as this changes on a frequent basis. However, the amount of time available, including full-time posts, is capped at 0.2% of total staffing.

Of the 16 staff currently working full-time on trade union activities, only four earn more than £25,900 annually.

The cost to the public purse of the 16 staff currently engaged full-time on trade union activities is £416,000 per year on salaries, which is around 0.02% of the Department's total pay bill.

Travel to Interview

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment was made of the effects on *(a)* the rate of unemployment and *(b)* the Exchequer of the termination of the Jobcentre Plus Travel to Interview scheme; and if he will make a statement. [56501]

Chris Grayling: Help with the cost of travel to job interviews remains available from Jobcentre Plus. The Travel to Interview scheme along with a number of other discretionary funds has been rolled into a single Flexible Support Fund. This allows Jobcentre Plus managers and advisers more flexibility to tailor support they provide to jobseekers and to ensure value for money for the taxpayer. Jobcentre Plus advisers will continue to use their discretion to decide when to pay travel to interview costs.

Welfare Reform Bill

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Social Development Minister in the Northern Ireland Executive on *(a)* the Welfare Reform Bill and *(b)* proposals to introduce charging for child maintenance services. [47807]

Chris Grayling: The Department of Work and Pensions keeps in close contact with the Department of Social Development on the subject of welfare reform at both ministerial and official levels.

The Minister with responsibility for Welfare Reform, my noble Friend Lord Freud, visited Belfast on 4 March and met with both the Minister for Employment and Learning and the Minister for Social Development.

The Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Basingstoke (Maria Miller), who has responsibility for disabled people, has also had recent discussions on 20 April with the Minister for Social Development on a range of matters, including child maintenance and disability living allowance reforms.

Furthermore Lord Freud is arranging to speak to the newly appointed Ministers to resume discussions on the welfare reform programme.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 24 May 2011

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential for the waste-derived biodiesel industry to contribute to the development of green skills and green jobs. [56537]

Norman Baker: I have been asked to reply as the Department for Transport leads on biofuels policy.

The Department for Transport has made no specific assessment of the potential contribution from waste-derived biofuels to the development of the green economy or green jobs. However, the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) and the Department for Transport have published information on the supply of biofuels, including listing all biofuels producers who have claimed renewable transport fuels certificates. The RFA also published assessments of the impact of the renewable transport fuels obligation in the UK following the first two years of the obligation. This information is available at:

www.renewablefuelsagency.gov.uk

and

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/biofuels/

Carbon Emissions: Ceramics

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to tackle carbon leakage in the ceramics sector. [57055]

Gregory Barker: The coalition Government are committed to safeguarding the UK's strong manufacturing base whilst reducing carbon emissions and increasing energy security. In recognition of this, and with the support of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, officials are working in the UK and in Europe to look at the impact of carbon reduction policies on energy intensive industries in the UK, including the ceramics sector. With the exception of ceramic bricks, all ceramic sectors were deemed at risk of carbon leakage in the European Commission's assessment under the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) Directive. However, on Thursday 18 May, with support from the UK delegation, the European Climate Change Committee voted to add ceramic bricks, roof tiles and clay pipes to the list of sectors at risk of carbon leakage. Ceramic bricks will now receive 100% of their allocated EU ETS allowances for free thereby reducing operational costs and supporting the sector to stay internationally competitive in the face of increased action on climate change.

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around his Department's premises; and how much such cameras cost to *(a)* install and *(b)* operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56835]

Gregory Barker: Staff in the Department are located in 3 Whitehall Place and 55 Whitehall, London and on two floors of Atholl House, Aberdeen.

The number of CCTV cameras installed in the above premises are as follows:

3 Whitehall Place:

Seven external
44 internal
51 total

55 Whitehall:

12 external
One internal
13 total

Atholl House:

Four external
Three internal
Seven total

All but one of the CCTV cameras were installed prior to DECC's creation and the costs are not available. One internal camera was installed in 3 Whitehall Place in February 2011 at a cost of £876.00.

The cost to operate the CCTV cameras for all locations are included in the overall security and maintenance contracts. Therefore specific operating costs are not available.

Departmental Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57124]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 620W.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56103]

Gregory Barker: The use of all forms of travel undertaken by civil servants, including special advisers, is governed by the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

The costs for special advisers' travel between May 2010 and April 2011 are as follows:

Government car—0
Private aircraft—0

Information on costs associated with overseas travel by Ministers, including accompanying special advisers, is published annually by the Cabinet Office.

Information on the other modes of transport could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Taxis

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on private vehicle hire for Ministerial travel *(a)* in total and *(b)* in respect of each Minister in his Department since 11 May 2010. [56121]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 5 April 2011, *Official Report,* column 881W.

Between 11 May 2010 and 2 September 2010, DECC had contracts with the Government Car and Despatch Agency for four ministerial cars. These contracts were subject to a three month notice period, which DECC invoked on 1 June 2010. Between that same period of 11 May 2010 and 2 September, the costs to the Department of the contract with the Government Car and Despatch Agency were £108,698. The total spent on private vehicle hire, including vehicles provided through these contracts, between 11 May 2010 and 30 April 2011 is broken down as follows:

	£
Chris Huhne	46,194
Gregory Barker	47,650
Charles Hendry	48,895
Lord Marland	34,021
Total:	176,760

This compares with £303,129 which DECC spent on GCDA ministerial cars during the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Electricity Generation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of demand-side measures to electricity market reform. [57361]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to encouraging and incentivising energy efficiency within the home, and in the public and private sectors, and has a range of policies in place to achieve this including current measures such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC), Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP), and future measures such as the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation (ECO).

DECC is currently developing a White Paper which will set out proposals for Electricity Market Reform (EMR). We recognise that demand-side measures have an important contribution to make in supporting the transition to a low-carbon generating mix and ensuring security of supply. We are considering views raised in response to the EMR consultation on demand-side issues in development of the White Paper.

Energy: Meters

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure those with pre-payment meters are not disadvantaged compared to those using other payment methods; and if he will make a statement. [57211]

Charles Hendry: Energy tariffs are a matter for Ofgem, who have put in place rules to protect consumers on pricing, including licence condition changes to prevent unfair price differentials, such as those between different payment methods.

Ofgem has reported on the effectiveness of these changes and, as part of their retail market review, found that prepayment meter (PPM) customers now pay, on average, £20 less than standard credit customers for their gas and electricity. They have also found that direct debit customers now pay, on average, £70 less than PPM for gas and electricity, which is within the £88 indicative cost difference between providing and servicing a PPM compared to a direct debit account, identified by Ofgem. A copy of the full Ofgem 'Retail Market Review—Findings and Proposals' is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/rmr/Documents1/RMR_FINAL.pdf

We support Ofgem's actions in tackling unjustified tariff premiums to ensure consumers do not lose out.

Energy: Prices

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to support vulnerable people to participate in the Green Deal scheme; and whether such people will be prioritised [57262]

Gregory Barker: In recognition that some households may need additional support to benefit from energy efficiency improvements available through the Green Deal, we are developing an Energy Company Obligation that will focus in particular on the needs of the poor and vulnerable. We will consult on detailed proposals for the ECO later this year.

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure open competition within the Green Deal scheme to enable independent traders to compete with major utilities companies. [57267]

Gregory Barker: The Energy Bill will create a Green Deal framework that enables a wide range of companies to act as Green Deal providers, installers and assessors. The legislation is designed to be as open and inclusive as possible with no bias towards any particular industry. Green Deal finance and the new Energy Company Obligation, should encourage a diverse range of partnerships and innovative delivery arrangements to flourish, providing many opportunities for companies of all types and sizes.

Fossil Fuels

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will request the World Bank to reduce its investment in fossil fuels as part of its energy strategy review. [57390]

Charles Hendry: Throughout the review, the UK has emphasised to the World Bank the need to ensure that the Energy Strategy meets the twin goals of sustainable energy production and increasing the access of poor people to energy. We support the inclusion of a target to increase the percentage of lending for clean energy, and a shift away from lending for coal fired power stations toward cleaner energy sources, where we believe the financing challenges to be greatest.

Fuel: Households

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding he expects to be made available to fuel poor households in London through the Energy Company Obligation in each of the next four years. [56218]

Gregory Barker: The ECO will be more focused than its predecessors on targeting support at low income and vulnerable households and hard to treat homes. ECO will therefore be key to delivering on this Government's commitment to tackling fuel poverty, and London, along with other regions where there is a high proportion of hard to treat housing, will be well-placed to benefit.

The Government are keen for an ambitious ECO. It is too early to determine the precise outcomes we will require energy suppliers to deliver. We will consult on the scale of ECO in the autumn.

Natural Gas

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for how many days' supply of gas the UK has storage capacity; and if he will make a statement. [57212]

Charles Hendry: On a simple calculation (total storage capacity divided by average daily UK gas consumption in 2010) we have around 16.5 days of supply available. However this does not take account of:

(i) deliverability constraints which mean we could not meet full daily demand from storage alone, nor would we need to as we have diverse gas supply from North sea production and a variety of import sources;

(ii) maximum possible flow rates from gas storage which differ depending on the storage site. Some storage facilities would be emptied faster than 16 days in a hypothetical situation where they were providing gas to the grid at maximum capacity and were not replenishing at any point (unlikely in reality), whereas long range storage could provide gas for much longer than 16 days.

Nuclear Power

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether he plans to lay before Parliament the nuclear National Policy Statement at the same time as the other national policy statement relating to energy; [57448]

(2) when he expects the nuclear National Policy Statement to be laid before Parliament. [57449]

Charles Hendry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State set out in a written statement given on 18 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 21WS, that subject to careful consideration of the detail of Dr Weightman's interim report, the Government intend to bring forward the energy national policy statements for ratification as soon as possible. This includes the nuclear national policy statement.

River Severn: Tidal Power

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent meetings he had had with the Welsh Government on plans to harness tidal power in the Severn Estuary. [57345]

Gregory Barker: I have not had any meetings with my counterparts in the Welsh Government on this topic since the recent election. However, officials from the two Governments are in regular contact about various plans to develop tidal power schemes in the Severn estuary.

Welsh Assembly Government

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings he has had with Ministers in the Welsh Government since May 2010; and what the subject was of each meeting. [57265]

Gregory Barker: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and other Ministers from his department have regular meetings with Ministers from the devolved Administrations, including with Ministers from the Welsh Government. Ministers meet bilaterally as well as at Joint Ministerial Committee, European Council and the British-Irish Council.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will issue guidance to planning authorities recommending that onshore wind turbines be installed no closer than 10 rotor diameters from the nearest domestic property. [57391]

Charles Hendry: The Government are keen to avoid a 'one size fits all' approach to setting distances between wind turbines and nearby properties and consider that impacts are best assessed on a case by case basis so that local factors can be taken fully into account, regardless of whether applications are dealt with at national or local level. Where applications are dealt with at local level (the large majority of applications in England), we believe that local councils should have the opportunity to assess these matters on behalf of their local community.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Ethnic Groups

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects on black and minority ethnic communities of reductions in his Department's funding for the arts. [57374]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My Department published an equalities impact statement in October 2010 concerning our spending review settlement. In addition to this, Arts Council England produced its own comprehensive equality impact assessment, which is available on its website and which considered the equality impact of its arts funding decisions in terms of race and ethnicity, but also gender and disability.

Broadband: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people in Sunderland who live in areas with low-speed broadband. [57314]

Mr Vaizey: We estimate that there are 9,423 premises in the local authority Sunderland District with less than 2 Mbit/s out of a total of 127,735 premises.

Copyright: Internet

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to enforce the online copyright infringement sections of the Digital Economy Act 2010. [56617]

Mr Vaizey: Implementation of the online copyright infringement measures in the Digital Economy Act requires a number of steps to be taken. Implementation of the initial measures cannot happen until Ofcom has approved a code of practice, incorporating provisions relating to the sharing of costs which must be approved by Parliament. The judgment from the recent judicial review will require changes to our original proposal on how costs are shared and we are currently considering the changes which will need to be made to the cost-sharing Statutory Instrument in light of this. Once we are clear on what changes need to be made both the Statutory Instrument and the draft code will need to be notified to the European Commission under the Technical Standards Directive. Separately, the Government commissioned a report by Ofcom into the workability of sections 17 and 18 of the Act. That report is due to be delivered shortly. I will set out what action we plan to take as soon as we have had an opportunity to consider the report and all other relevant factors.

Cultural Heritage: Qualifications

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* English Heritage is taking to promote the Heritage Skills national vocational qualification. [57027]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) recognises that the repair and maintenance of historic buildings requires craftspeople with specialist skills and knowledge. The Heritage Skills NVQ Level 3 demonstrates competency to carry out a variety of heritage restoration skills to a high standard. DCMS supports the work of Construction Skills—which is sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills—and that of the National Heritage Training Group, which includes English Heritage, in developing and assessing this qualification.

In respect of English Heritage's involvement, I have asked the chief executive of English Heritage to write direct to my hon. Friend. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around his Department's premises; and how much such cameras cost to *(a)* install and *(b)* operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56832]

John Penrose: There are 35 cameras around the Department for Culture, Media and Sport premises. They were installed in 2007 at a cost of £72,353.93. The operations cost for 2010-11 was £2,714.

Heritage Lottery Fund: Reading

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many charities in Reading West constituency have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received awards from the Heritage Lottery Fund in each year since its establishment. [57025]

John Penrose: Since the Heritage Lottery Fund was established nine applications have been received from, and eight awards made to, charities in the Reading West constituency. A breakdown can be found in the following table:

	Applications	*Awards*
1995	1	0
1996	0	0
1997	0	0
1998	0	0
1999	0	0
2000	0	0
2001	0	0
2002	0	0
2003	0	0
2004	0	0
2005	2	2
2006	1	1
2007	4	4
2008	0	0
2009	0	0
2010	1	1
2011	0	0
Total	9	8

Heritage: Repairs and Maintenance

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* urgent works and *(b)* urgent repairs notices were issued by English Heritage or served by the Secretary of State between 2000 and 2011; whether each heritage asset in respect of which a notice was issued was on the English Heritage at risk register at the time of notice being issued; and what the status is of each asset in 2011. [57276]

John Penrose: The Secretary of State served one Repairs Notice, under s.48 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, in the period 2000 to 2011. The Repairs Notice was served on the owner of Apethorpe Hall in Northamptonshire prior to the Secretary of State's compulsory purchase of the building in 2004. Apethorpe Hall was on the English Heritage Heritage at Risk Register at the time the Notice was served. The building is currently owned by English Heritage and remains on the Heritage at Risk Register.

Further information relating to this issue is held by English Heritage.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of English Heritage to write direct to the hon. Member on the matters that fall within his responsibility.

Intellectual Property

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport in which Department officials working on intellectual property policy are located. [57204]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The officials who lead on intellectual property policy within the Government are in the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), which is part of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. In addition officials in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have specific responsibility for implementing the online copyright infringement provisions of the 2010 Digital Economy Act. The Intellectual Property Office works closely with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and with other Government Departments who have an interest in intellectual property policy.

Local Broadcasting: Television

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in *(a)* the Scottish Executive, *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(c)* the Northern Ireland Assembly on the creation of a national spine for local television. [56811]

Mr Vaizey: The Department routinely discusses a range of media policy matters which includes local TV with the Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Assembly.

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to publish a summary of the bids received by his Department for the operation of local television stations. [56812]

Mr Vaizey: The Local Media Action Plan published in January 2010 invited informal expressions of interest as part of a two stage consultation process. This was not a bidding process. A summary of responses will be published on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's website by the end of May:

www.culture.gov.uk

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects the new national television spine for local television to be in place. [56813]

Mr Vaizey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 19 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 276W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Clacton (Mr Carswell).

National Lottery

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what approach the *(a)* Big Lottery Fund and *(b)* National Lottery Fund adopts in assessing funding bids from organisations linked to (i) churches and (ii) other religious groups. [57028]

John Penrose: Decisions on funding bids are made by each of the National Lottery distributors independently of Government.

Olympic Games 2012

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects the final timetable for the route of the London 2012 Olympics torch relay to be published. [57141]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for the Olympic torch relay. On 18 May LOCOG announced the 66 evening celebrations and six of the island visits. They will now proceed with the detailed planning of the route, which will be announced later this year.

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how the locations of the overnight stops for the London 2012 Olympics torch relay were determined. [57142]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for the Olympic torch relay. Over the last 16 months LOCOG has conducted a UK-wide consultation on the torch relay route, including through workshops involving local authorities and local representatives of the tourism, heritage, sustainability, culture, education and sport sectors. LOCOG set up Advisory Groups in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and in every English region to develop the route and identify overnight celebration locations. Factors that were taken into account when selecting overnight stops included population centres, logistical and operational requirements and the aim to take the Olympic flame within an hour's journey time of 95% of the UK population.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information has been collected by the Olympic Delivery Authority on *(a)* the distribution of Tier 2 and Tier 3 Olympic construction contracts by country and region and *(b)* the monetary value of these contracts. [57146]

Hugh Robertson: Information on the full distribution and value of contracts won across the UK is not held as these are not public procurements run by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA).

In 2009 the ODA undertook research into its supply chain and mapped out over 1,500 companies from across the UK that are helping to build the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The map can be viewed at the following link:

www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/map.php

This represents only a fraction of the number of companies the ODA expects to benefit from the £6 billion of investment. The ODA estimates that overall up to 50,000 contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains with a value that runs into hundreds of millions of pounds.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate the Olympic Delivery Authority has made of the number of contracts remaining to be let in respect of the London 2012 Olympics; and what estimate has been made of the monetary value of those contracts. [57147]

Hugh Robertson: As of May 2011, the Olympic Delivery Authority estimate there are 35 contracts remaining, with an estimated monetary value of £150 million. This may be in the form of new contracts or amendments to existing contracts. These direct procurements will in turn generate hundreds more business opportunities in the supply chains.

Prince William: Marriage

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much public funding was allocated to activities relating to the recent royal wedding. [56672]

John Penrose *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* No additional funding was allocated to meet the costs associated with the royal wedding. Government support was funded within existing budgets. In addition, some services, such as the media facilities, were provided on a cost recovery basis. We do not have the final figures yet but we estimate the cost to this Department was around £1 million.

Public Holidays

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to publish the submissions to his Department's *(a)* pre-consultation and *(b)* consultation on moving the May Day bank holiday. [57375]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Publication procedures will be conducted in line with the Government Code of Practice on Consultation. The code of practice can be found at the following link:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file47158.pdf

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what criteria he plans to apply to his determination of the future of the May Day bank holiday. [57376]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The pre-consultation will arrive at criteria for the main consultation by inviting ideas on a date and occasion to replace the May Day bank holiday and will seek further evidence to support an impact assessment. The exercise will also include the option of leaving the early May Day bank holiday date where it is.

Sports: VAT

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations his Department has received on the charging of value added tax on the provision of sports league services; and if he will make a statement. [56718]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs' view is that the provision of sports league services is liable to VAT at the standard rate. As a number of providers have been treating these supplies as exempt from VAT, HMRC issued further guidance in February 2011, confirming their view that the provision of sports league services is liable to VAT.

Television: Local Broadcasting

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his Department's policy is on creation of a national spine for local television. [57172]

Mr Vaizey: The Local Media Action Plan invited responses to help inform the model for local TV. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is currently analysing these and the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport will be making a statement in due course.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Royal Parks Agency are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56437]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) employs one full-time staff member as a trade union representative. Five members of staff work on trade union activities on a part time basis.

The Royal Parks Agency (TRP) employs one staff member on a part-time basis for trade union activities.

There are no trade union representatives paid more than £25,900 in DCMS or the TRP.

The annual cost of employing trade union representatives for DCMS and TRP is up to £77,000 for the 2010-11 financial year.

PRIME MINISTER

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Bob Russell: To ask the Prime Minister on what dates in the last 12 months he has met representatives of circuses to discuss the continued use of wild animals in public performances. [57372]

The Prime Minister: I have had no such meetings. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has set out Government policy on the continued use of wild animals in public performances.

Mark Britnell

Helen Jones: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether he consulted *(a)* the Deputy Prime Minister and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Health before appointing Mr Mark Britnell to advise him on health policy; [56707]

(2) for what reason Mr Mark Britnell was asked to join the group of experts advising him on health policy; [56708]

(3) on what date he was first notified of the content of comments on the NHS made by Mr Mark Britnell at a conference organised by Apax Partners. [56905]

Ian Lavery: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions (i) senior officials and (ii) special advisors in his Office have had with Mark Britnell since May 2010; [57013]

(2) whether Mark Britnell has been invited to 10 Downing street since May 2010. [57014]

The Prime Minister: I have not appointed Mr Mark Britnell to be my adviser on health matters.

The first time I was aware of his comments was after they appeared in the weekend press on 14-15 May 2011.

Officials and special advisers have meetings and discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust

Helen Jones: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to his answer to my hon. Friend the Member for St Helens North (Mr Watts) of 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 527, on Business of the House, when he first learned that a merger of St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust with another trust was being considered; and whether he was advised by the Department of Health of the trusts which were being considered for such a merger. [57174]

Sir George Young: I have nothing further to add to the answer given to the hon. Member for St Helens North (Mr Watts) on 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 527.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Personal Income

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what account he has taken of the effects of income inequality in the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy. [57151]

Mr Paterson: The majority of relevant social and economic policies in Northern Ireland are the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Executive. The Government are however committed to working with the Northern Ireland Executive to rebalance the Northern Ireland economy and to boost private sector growth. The Government worked in close co-operation with the Executive on their recent 'Rebalancing the Northern Ireland Economy' consultation paper. The consultation paper is clear that Northern Ireland is one of the UK's most disadvantaged regions and consequently puts forward radical proposals to grow the private sector and increase prosperity in some of the most deprived areas of the country.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for antisocial behaviour orders have been made to Coventry magistrates in each of the last three years; how many have been granted; and how many of those granted have been breached. [57279]

James Brokenshire: Data on antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) are collected at Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level, and Coventry is part of the west midlands CJS area. The following table shows the numbers of ASBOs issued on application, and following conviction, as well as the number breached for the first time in the west midlands CJS area in each year between 2007 and 2009 (the latest year for which figures are available). No ASBO applications made to magistrates courts in the west midlands CJS area between 2007 and 2009 have been reported to the Ministry of Justice as being refused.

An ASBO can be issued in one CJS area and breached in another. ASBOs may also be breached more than once and in more than one year. The figures shown represent instances when an ASBO was breached for the first time in each year between 2007 and 2009. Some of these breaches will be of ASBOs issued in previous years, or of ASBOs issued following conviction.

Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) applied for and issued at on application and conviction at all courts and the number proved at all courts to have been breached in the west midlands Criminal Justice System (CJS) area, 2007-09

West midlands CJS area	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Issued on application[1]	61	64	43
Issued on conviction[2]	120	133	76
Breached[3]	113	102	76

[1] Includes ASBOs issued on application by magistrates courts acting in their civil capacity and county courts, which became available on 1 April 1999. Prior to the creation of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007, numbers of ASBOs issued were reported to the Home Office by the Court Service.

[2] Includes ASBOs made following conviction for a relevant criminal offence at the Crown court and at magistrates courts (acting in their criminal capacity), which became available on 2 December 2002.

[3] ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. This table presents instances when an ASBO was breached for the first time in the years shown. Many of these breaches will be as a result of an ASBO that was issued in an earlier year and many of these will also be as a result of an ASBO issued following conviction. For this reason breach rates cannot be computed from the figures presented in this table. Breaches are counted in this table by area of issue.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice

Aviation: Security

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to report on the outcome of *(a)* investigations into the bomb package found at East Midlands Airport in October 2010 and *(b)* its review of air freight security. [57008]

James Brokenshire: The police investigation into the events surrounding the improvised explosive device found at East Midlands airport is ongoing. The Home Office and the Department for Transport have reviewed aviation cargo security. For security reasons it is not appropriate to publish this work. However the Government work closely with the aviation industry and international partners to ensure security arrangements are maintained and enhanced where necessary.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data her Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56754]

Damian Green: The Home Office runs no surveys that are longitudinal in the sense of tracking responses from the same respondents over time, although some surveys are regularly repeated.

The British Crime Survey and the annual data requirement for collecting data from the police have continued in 2010-11. The content of each is reviewed and changed each year in consultation with key stakeholders and with regard to costs, need and burden.

The data collection for statistics on scientific procedures on animals is regularly reviewed, including data collection methods, although it remains unchanged in the last year.

Responsibility for the collection of statistics on alcohol and late night refreshment licensing transferred to the Home Office from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport in 2010. This collection from local authorities is not run every year and a decision not to collect the data in 2010-11 was taken within the year from May 2010.

Other statistics, including those on migration and the operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 are largely based on management information and require no specific additional data collections. Migration statistics are continually reviewed, including through consultations with external users such as the one launched on 24 February 2011.

Other management information on a wide range of issues is collected by delivery bodies for their own purposes and collated by the Home Office. These collections are regularly reviewed to ensure the data remain relevant, and that submitting data does not impose a burden on local areas. None have been altered, added or removed during the year from May 2010.

Details of external social science research projects relating to crime and policing or migration which were commissioned, altered, completed, or continued unchanged during the year (including those completed as planned) from May 2010 are given in List 1.

Details of external physical science research projects relating to crime and policing or migration which were commissioned, altered, completed or continued unchanged during the year (including those completed as planned) from May 2010 are given in List 2.

The Home Office also commissions research in support of the United Kingdom's strategy for countering international terrorism (CONTEST). The details of this research are classified on the grounds of national security, but our broad research strategy is available on the Home Office website, at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/counter-terrorism/science-and-technology/science-and-technology-strategy?view=Binary

Where possible, details of less sensitive projects are included in Tables 1 and 2, and in addition details of some research spend are given at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/transparency/transparency-spend/

List 1: External social research begun, amended, terminated, or continued without change during the year beginning in May 2010.

(i) Social Research Contracts awarded since May 2010

Drug Data Warehouse—contract extension

Review of small projects under EC funding

Satisfying labour demand through migration

Impact of financial investigation on organised crime groups

Integrated Offender Management/Voluntary and Community Sector Project

Multi-agency risk assessment conference review

Facilitated Return Scheme

Building the Voluntary and Community Sector's involvement in Integrated Offender Management approaches: a process evaluation

Early Legal Advice Pilot (for asylum seekers) evaluation

(ii) Social Research Contracts Terminated since May 2010

Evaluation of serious organised crime task force programme

(iii) Social Research Contracts amended since May 2010

Drug Data Warehouse—contract extension

'Links between homicide and organised crime'

Vulnerability and resilience to Al-Qaeda influenced violent extremism—Learning from the gang, cult, political activism and violent extremism literature

Engaged Communities

Al-Qaeda influenced radicalisation: Applying Situational Action Theory

Reducing youth crime: assessing the set-up, delivery and impact of triage, reparation and street-based teams

Study of Key interventions into terrorism using Bayesian Networks

Neighbourhood Agreements

Individual disengagement from violent extremist groups—A Rapid Evidence Assessment to inform policy and practice in preventing violent extremism

British Crime Survey—Extension

An Exploration of Staff-Prisoner Relationships at HMP Whitemoor: Twelve Years On.

(iv) Social Research Contracts Live and not amended May 2010 to May 2011

AAR Assessment

Neighbourhood Policing—Exemplar Sites

Early Leavers from the Police Force

Partnership Peer Support Program (PPSS) Evaluation

Valuing the security/privacy/inconvenience trade off

A Rapid Evidence Assessment: What works in reducing alcohol related crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in the night-time economy and in public spaced

Drugs Advisory Panel

Review of small projects under EC funding

Polling on threat levels from international terrorism

Polling on public attitudes to UK involvement in Libya

Exploring public confidence in the police and local councils in tackling crime and antisocial behaviour

Retention of female and BME police officers

List 2: Physical sciences external research continued and completed by the Home Office scientific development branch (now the Centre for Applied Science and Technology)

Data collections initiated by HOSDB (Now CAST) May 2010 to May 2011

Creation of i-LIDS New Technologies data set for evaluation of video analytic systems

Physical Sciences external research continued and completed by HOSDB (Now CAST) May 2010 to May 2011.

Continued collation of data on police Taser usage

Research on body armour ("Behind Armour Blunt Trauma") project jointly with USA.

Student research projects in the area of fingerprint forensics

Research and development for roadside and police station screening of drug drivers

Literature reviews on facial comparison

Research into audio processing for law enforcement

Development of tool supporting covert surveillance of serious and organised criminals

Development of signal processing for covert surveillance of serious and organised criminals

Development of technique in support of covert surveillance of serious and organised criminals

Physical sciences external research provided in support of CONTEST and referenced in other published material which has been continued or completed May 2010 - May 2011

Research into CCTV operator performance

Innovative Research Call on Explosives and Weapons Detection

Project with CCD Design & Ergonomics

Project with Synergy Consultants

Project with Cranfield University

Project with Exchem defence systems Ltd

Project with University of Leeds

Project with Kings College

Project with CCD Design and Ergonomics Ltd

Project with Nottingham Trent University

Project with REACT Engineering Ltd

Project with Cobalt Light Systems Ltd

Project with University College London

Project with Smiths Detection—Watford

Project with Thruvision Systems Ltd

Project with University of Birmingham

Project with SFTC—RAL Space

Departmental Responsibilities

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition of *(a)* back office, *(b)* middle office and *(c)* front line her Department uses in the formulation and development of policy; and when such definitions were established. [45119]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 8 March 2011]:* Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC's) report 'Demanding Times', published on 30 March, provides a definition of frontline, middle office and back office police functions. A copy of the report is available at:

http://www.hmic.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Thematics/THM_20110330.pdf

Full details of policing roles and their categorisation by frontline, middle office and back office appear on page 19 of the report.

Drugs: Technology

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date she plans to issue a specification to manufacturers for drugs testing technology for use by police at the roadside. [57229]

James Brokenshire: We expect to receive a draft specification very shortly and will then consider the best way to proceed.

Entry Clearances: Appeals

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals there have been against refusal for family visitor visas in each year since 2002. [56676]

Damian Green *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* There have been the following number of appeals against the refusal of visit visas for family members in each year since 2002:

	Number of appeals
2002-03	9,856
2003-04	16,884
2004-05	30,643
2005-06	58,495
2006-07	50,065
2007-08	64,669
2008-09	62,050
2009-10	63,405

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations her Department has received on its decision to introduce a temporary limit on confirmations of acceptance for studies allocations for colleges which do not meet accreditation and inspection criteria prior to finalising the definition of those criteria; and if she will make a statement. [57049]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has received nine pre-action protocols in relation to the Tier 4 interim limit. The agency does not centrally record all forms of representations received. To provide the information requested against the criteria required could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many colleges or schools in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Surrey and *(c)* Woking constituency have been given Highly Trusted Sponsor status in respect of Tier 4 student visas. [57052]

Damian Green: There are currently 1,326 educational establishments in the UK that have been granted Highly Trusted Sponsor (HTS) status. The number of HTS sponsors in Surrey and the Woking constituency can not be determined as sponsor licence holders may have a different address and postcode to that of the institution.

Forensic Science Service

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that expertise in strategy, examination and interpretation held by employees of the Forensic Science Service will be transferred to the forensic science market. [56808]

James Brokenshire: Private companies already provide approximately 35% of forensics services to the Criminal Justice System. These providers have a significant amount of expertise and impressive records in handling many high profile and complex criminal cases.

The Association of Chief Police Officers have been clear that the forensics market can cope with the managed wind-down of the Forensic Science Service (FSS). An orderly wind-down will enable adequate time for the restructuring of the current forensics framework, re-tendering of existing FSS contracts and to enable other forensics suppliers to develop the necessary capacity and expertise to meet any additional requirements.

Greater Manchester Police

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the proportion of time spent on frontline policing duties by officers in the Greater Manchester Police force in the latest period for which figures are available. [49598]

Nick Herbert: Latest information on frontline policing is provided in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary report, 'Demanding Times', published on 30 March. A copy of the report is available at:

http://www.hmic.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Thematics/THM_20110330.pdf

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish a strategy on human trafficking; and which organisations she has consulted in its preparation. [56886]

Damian Green: The Government intend to publish their strategy on human trafficking before the summer recess.

We have consulted a range of organisations in the development of the strategy including the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC), the UK Border Agency (UKBA), other Government Departments and non-Government organisations including Medaille Trust, Barnardos, Care, Migrant Helpline, International Organisation for Migration, Antislavery, Stop-UK, Dalit Freedom Network, Salvation Army, ECPAT, Eaves Housing, Red Cross, Soroptimist, TARA, Stop the Traffik, Human Trafficking Foundation, AFRUCA, Kalayaan, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) and Asylum Aid.

Immigrants: Employment

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* published on the performance of immigrants in the UK labour market in the last five years. [56661]

Damian Green: In the last five years the Home Office has not specifically commissioned research on the performance of migrants in the UK labour market.

However, the Government have asked the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to advise it on policy frameworks. As a part of its work the MAC has published reports that describe the performance of migrants in the UK labour market in recent years. These reports are available on its website at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingwithus/indbodies/mac/

Immigrants: Gurkhas

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* former Gurkhas and *(b)* dependants of former Gurkhas have settled in the UK since May 2009. [56138]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not collect management information on those former Gurkhas or their dependants that choose to settle in the UK having been issued with a settlement visa.

Immigration Controls

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will restore the primary purpose rule. [56675]

Damian Green *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* This Government are reforming the immigration system as a whole to make it fairer and more robust. We intend to bring forward a wide ranging consultation document on the family route looking at full range of proposals to tackle sham marriages and other abuse, promoting integration and reducing burdens on the taxpayer. We will set out the firm details of these proposed changes in due course.

Khat

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information she holds on *(a)* the value of imports, *(b)* levels of use and *(c)* the effects on personal health and safety of khat; and what recent consideration she has given to the classification of khat. [57260]

James Brokenshire: In February this year, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), wrote to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to set out current Government priorities for inclusion in the council's work programme in 2011-12. This reaffirmed my commission in November 2010 of a review of the available evidence relating to the harms of khat for the Advisory Council to provide both advice in relation to control under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and a wider response. A copy of the letter can be viewed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/alcohol-drugs/drugs/hs-acmd-priorities-2011-2012

The Home Office has also published a qualitative study which explored perceptions of the social harms associated with khat; the availability and type of treatment available to khat users via Drug Action Teams, and views on the appropriate Government response to khat. Details can be found at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/horr44c.pdf

A second study which reviews national and international evidence on the social harms associated with khat is due to be published shortly.

The British Crime Survey report "Drug Misuse Declared 2009/10" for the first time included estimates of the prevalence of khat use in the general population. Preliminary findings (based on six months data) show that 0.2% of adults reported using khat in the last year. This information can be found in "Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2009/10 British Crime Survey (England and Wales)" available at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1310.pdf

HM Revenue and Customs has classified khat under a Commodity Tariff that includes other types of plants and parts of plants. Therefore, HM Revenue and Customs are unable to supply details of import values that are specific solely to this product.

A copy of each of these documents has been placed in the Library.

Overseas Students

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to allow universities to accept students from outside the EU for the 2011-12 academic year on the basis of the English language criteria advertised prior to 20 March 2011; and if she will make a statement. [57269]

Damian Green: Changes to the student route were announced on 22 March following a public consultation. Amendments to the Immigration Rules were laid on 31 March, coming into force on 21 April. These amendments introduced some changes to the requirements in English language proficiency needed to obtain a student visa. The new rules do not apply to Certificates of Acceptance of Studies issued before 21 April. The new rules contain a number of important flexibilities for students at universities.

Police

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of police time was spent on frontline duties in each police force area in each year since 1997. [45150]

Nick Herbert: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) report Demanding Times, published on 30 March, provides the currently accepted definition of frontline, middle office and back office police functions. A copy of the report is available at:

http://www.hmic.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Thematics/THM_20110330.pdf

Full details of policing roles, their categorisation by frontline, middle office and back office, and an estimate of the percentage of resource allocated to the front line under this definition across England and Wales in 2010 appear on pages 19-21 of the report. Because the proportion of time spent on the front line by officers in different roles will have varied in earlier years and across forces, we are not able to give estimates at force level or for earlier years.

Stalking: Victims

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to improve the support available to victims of stalking; and if she will make a statement. [56685]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office is working closely with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to improve the support available to victims of stalking. Recent initiatives include:

The appointment of dedicated Single Points Of Contact (SPOCs) in each force area to deal with stalking complaints.

Supporting CPS in revising official Government guidance last year on stalking and harassment to focus on the victim and emphasise the existence and widespread nature of 'stalking' as a particular category of harassment and to identify the various ways in which stalking occurs.

On 8 March the Home Office published its action plan for tackling violence against women and girls for the spending review period which included several actions to tackle stalking. This document includes a commitment from the Home Office to continue to fund the National Stalking Helpline over the spending review period.

DEFENCE

Legal Arbitrator: Military Covenant

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who the legal arbitrator will be in respect of any complaints made by service personnel in respect of the principles of the military covenant. [56782]

Peter Luff: Service personnel are able to lodge any grievance with the chain of command or through the Ministry of Defence bullying and harassment complaints procedure that is overseen by the Service Complaints Commissioner.

The key principles of the Covenant, of no disadvantage and special treatment where appropriate, will be written into law for the first time. The amendments to the Armed Forces Bill will also recognise the unique nature of service life. This will not create new legally enforceable specific rights for service personnel.

Saudi Arabia: Military Aid

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 393W, on Saudi Arabia: military aid, whether the British Military Mission to the Saudi Arabian National Guard trained any of the Saudi Arabian forces which were deployed in Bahrain; and if he will make a statement. [56809]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence has extensive and wide-ranging bilateral engagement with Saudi Arabia in support of the Government's wider foreign policy goals. The Ministry of Defence's engagement with Saudi Arabia includes training provided to the Saudi Arabian National Guard, delivered through the British mission. It is possible that some members of the Saudi Arabian National Guard who were deployed in Bahrain may have undertaken some training provided by the British military mission.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* precision-guided munitions and *(b)* gravity bombs of each type have been dropped in Afghanistan by British (i) fixed-wing aircraft and (ii) unmanned aerial vehicles in the 12 months starting on 24 March (A) 2009 and (B) 2010. [56561]

Nick Harvey: The number of precision-guided munitions dropped in Afghanistan in the periods requested are shown in the following table. No free fall bombs have been dropped in this time. I am withholding the figures for individual munition types dropped by fixed-wing aircraft as their disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Aircraft type	*Munition*	*24 March 2009 to 23 March 2010*[1]	*24 March 2009 to 23 March 2011*[1]
Fixed-Wing	All types	43	48
Remotely Piloted Air Systems	GBU-12 500 lb Bomb	11	18
	AGM-114 Missile	35	61

[1] Inclusive.

The increase over the previous 12-month period in weapons delivered by UK air assets is mainly a function of two factors: additional deployed UK reaper remotely piloted air systems; and intelligence-led targeting of military objectives as a result of enhanced coalition surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. Use of force remains closely regulated and the avoidance of civilian casualties has been paramount; we carefully select the type of weapon in every engagement to ensure the most appropriate munition is used to deliver the required effect, while minimising the risk to civilians.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the military capabilities deployed in Afghanistan in *(a)* January 2010, *(b)* June 2010, *(c)* December 2010 and *(d)* April 2011. [56778]

Nick Harvey: UK armed forces personnel deployed in Afghanistan possess a wide range of military capabilities, in order to effectively support the International Security Assistance Force mission to assist the Afghan Government in building a secure and stable Afghanistan. I am withholding specific detail as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Armed Forces

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of joint working between his Department and the Department for Work and Pensions on support for the armed forces, their families and veterans. [56691]

Peter Luff: We work very closely with the Department for Work and Pensions and across the whole of Government to ensure that we provide the right level of support to our armed forces, their families and veterans.

The Armed Forces Bill, which the House will shortly have a further opportunity to consider, contains provision for an annual report on the Armed Forces Covenant, which is designed to strengthen this House's ability to scrutinise how we are fulfilling our obligations.

Armed Forces: Casualties

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial advice his Department provides for the family and dependents of service personnel who are killed while on operational duties overseas. [55909]

Peter Luff: The issue of financial guidance/advice was raised during the Boyce review of the armed forces compensation scheme. In his final report, published in 2010, Admiral the Lord Boyce commented that there needed to be better guidance and/or access to independent financial advice so that individuals can make informed decisions on what to do with their award once received. We are currently working with the Royal British Legion to improve the financial education and training available to service personnel throughout their career, including how to ensure compensation recipients get the appropriate guidance from independent financial advisers.

Armed Forces: Compensation

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps he plans to take to assess the method of paying compensation to members of the armed forces who are injured; and when he expects to report to the House the outcome of his assessment; [56692]

(2) if he will assess the adequacy of provision of financial advice to support members of the armed forces who have been injured and are in receipt of compensation. [56861]

Peter Luff: The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) was reviewed under the independent chairmanship of the former Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral the Lord Boyce in February 2010. Lord Boyce was supported by an Independent Scrutiny Group (ISG) made up of independent professionals, the War Widows' Association, ex-service organisations, and families' representatives who thoroughly examined every aspect of the scheme, including the method of paying compensation to those who have been injured. Lord Boyce and the ISG unanimously concluded that the scheme was fundamentally sound, but required significant improvement in some areas.

All the improvements recommended have now been made to the scheme, creating an even more comprehensive package for those injured as a result of their service.

We have no plans to undertake any further assessment of the method of paying compensation to members of the armed forces who are injured.

The issue of financial guidance/advice was also considered during the Boyce review. In his final report Lord Boyce commented that there needed to be better guidance and/or access to independent financial advice so that individuals could make informed decisions on what to do with their award once received. We are currently working with the Royal British Legion to improve the financial education and training available to service personnel throughout their career, including how to ensure compensation recipients get the appropriate guidance from independent financial advisers.

Armed Forces: Complaints

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints of *(a)* discrimination, *(b)* harassment and *(c)* bullying have been recorded in each of the armed forces in each of the last five years. [54657]

Peter Luff: The following tables reflect the number of discrimination, harassment and bullying complaints reported since October 2006 for each service.

Statistical data prior to October 2006 are not held centrally.

Discrimination, bullying and harassment complaints

October 2006 –March 2007

	RN		*Army*		*RAF*	
	Formal	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*
Bullying	9	40	25	34	9	24
Harassment	7	48	37	36	9	23
Sexual harassment	3	14	6	13	4	8
Sexual discrimination	1	0	2	1	0	0
Racial harassment	0	4	9	4	1	2
Racial discrimination	0	0	3	4	2	0
Sexual orientation harassment	0	1	0	2	0	0
Sexual orientation discrimination	0	0	0	0	0	0
Religious harassment	0	0	0	0	1	0
Religious discrimination	0	0	0	0	0	0

April 2007 –September 2007

	RN		*Army*		*RAF*	
	Formal	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*
Bullying	7	27	15	17	19	26
Harassment	9	40	6	26	12	16
Sexual harassment	11	18	5	6	6	6
Sexual discrimination	1	0	3	0	1	3
Racial harassment	1	5	4	1	2	2
Racial discrimination	0	2	3	3	3	1
Sexual orientation harassment	0	1	1	0	1	3
Sexual orientation discrimination	1	4	1	0	1	0
Religious harassment	0	2	1	0	0	0
Religious discrimination	0	0	0	0	1	0

October 2007 –March 2008

	RN		*Army*		*RAF*		*Tri-Service top level budget holders*	
	Formal	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*
Bullying	4	29	11	23	16	30	0	0
Harassment	8	43	25	21	8	29	0	0
Sexual harassment	4	12	9	8	5	10	0	0
Sexual discrimination	0	2	1	7	1	0	0	0
Racial harassment	3	6	5	1	7	4	0	0
Racial discrimination	0	3	1	3	1	1	0	0
Sexual orientation harassment	0	4	0	4	1	3	0	0
Sexual orientation discrimination	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Religious harassment	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Religious discrimination	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	10	5	4	2	5	0	0

April 2008–September 2008

	RN		*Army*		*RAF*		*Tri-Service top level budget holders*	
	Formal	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*
Bullying	10	36	7	14	24	22	1	3

April 2008–September 2008

	RN		*Army*		*RAF*		*Tri-Service top level budget holders*	
	Formal	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*
Harassment	14	38	13	10	16	33	7	10
Sexual harassment	4	17	5	1	7	9	0	0
Sexual discrimination	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Racial harassment	4	2	1	1	3	0	0	0
Racial discrimination	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
Sexual orientation harassment	0	3	1	2	1	3	0	1
Sexual orientation discrimination	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Religious harassment	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Religious discrimination	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

January 2009–December 2009

	RN		*Army*		*RAF*		*Tri-Service top level budget holders*	
	Formal	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*
Bullying	12	30	57	71	41	32	4	9
Harassment	17	72	65	60	27	45	5	6
Sexual harassment	13	16	8	22	7	8	0	1
Sexual discrimination	1	0	1	5	2	1	0	0
Racial harassment	4	7	10	25	4	5	2	1
Racial discrimination	0	2	13	2	0	1	0	0
Sexual orientation harassment	0	5	3	3	2	0	0	1
Sexual orientation discrimination	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Religious harassment	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	0
Religious discrimination	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0

January 2010–December 2010

	RN		*Army*		*RAF*		*Tri-Service top level budget holders*	
	Formal	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*	*Formal*	*Informal*
Bullying	8	48	47	56	28	36	12	8
Harassment	15	68	44	56	9	33	4	6
Sexual harassment	2	13	14	17	1	9	1	3
Sexual discrimination	1	4	6	5	0	2	0	0
Sex Harassment	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Racial harassment	3	7	10	11	2	5	0	1
Racial discrimination	1	4	2	9	1	1	0	1
Sexual orientation harassment	1	5	4	5	1	5	0	0
Sexual orientation discrimination	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	1
Religious harassment	0	1	1	4	0	1	0	0
Religious discrimination	0	2	6	2	0	0	0	1

The changes in the reporting periods given in the tables reflect the requirements of the Service Complaints Commissioner, who has instigated a data gathering policy based on the calendar year.

Armed Forces: Conditions of Employment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 16 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 25-42, on armed forces covenant, what estimate he has made of the total cost of the veterans card; and if his Department will meet that cost. [56649]

Peter Luff: In the Government response to the report of the Taskforce on the Military Covenant, we accepted the recommendation for a veterans' card for all former service personnel. It is estimated that a single card will cost in the region of £10.

We are currently considering a range of internal and external options on how this should be funded before introducing the card to coincide with the relaunch of the defence discount directory scheme next year.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 25-42, on armed forces covenant, whether the external reference group is a permanent body. [56652]

Peter Luff: We will continue to call upon and welcome the input of the external reference group in our work to support the armed forces covenant. This will include drafting and commenting on the armed forces covenant report, the requirement for which is placed on the Defence Secretary in clause 2 of the Armed Forces Bill currently going through Parliament.

We are working with the external reference group to update its terms of reference in line with its significant new role.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the merits of *(a)* adding bed linen as a permitted item to the clothing allowance claim of war pension allowances and *(b)* creating an additional allowance for bed linen; and if he will make a statement. [56937]

Peter Luff: The War Pension Scheme is open to those who were injured or disabled through serving in the armed forces before 6 April 2005. Within this scheme supplementary allowances are available to cover additional costs that fall to war pensioners as a result of the condition for which they receive a pension, such as the clothing allowance. No claims for bed linen have met the required criteria under which supplementary allowances are given, and therefore, there are no plans to add such an allowance to the War Pension Scheme.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost to the public purse arising from the time taken to complete the capability sustainment programmes for *(a)* the Warrior infantry vehicle and *(b)* Challenger 2 main battle tank. [55522]

Peter Luff: The Warrior capability sustainment programme is currently in the assessment phase. The total cost of the programme will be determined when the main investment decision point is made. I am withholding the estimated costs as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interests. At 31 March 2011, total expenditure for the concept and assessment phases was £50.7 million.

The Challenger 2 capability sustainment programme is in the very early stages of the concept phase and no expenditure has yet been incurred.

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around his Department's premises; and how much such cameras cost to *(a)* install and *(b)* operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56833]

Peter Luff: The requested information is not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Community Covenant

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the projects to which his Department has allocated funding as part of the Community Covenant to date; and in each such case *(a)* how much funding his Department is expecting to allocate in each of the next three financial years and *(b)* which other Government Departments are allocating funding to the project. [56780]

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 16 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 25-42, on the armed forces covenant, (1) what upper limit he plans to set for applications made by a single veterans' charity to the community covenant grant scheme; [57183]

(2) how many applications a single veterans' charity will be able to make to the community covenant grant scheme; [57184]

(3) whether veterans' charities based in Wales will be able to bid for funding from the proposed community covenant grant scheme on the same basis as those charities registered in England; [57185]

(4) when he plans to publish details of the criteria for his Community Covenant Grant scheme; [57186]

(5) what procedure he plans to establish for veterans' charities wishing to access funding from the Community Covenant Grant scheme. [57187]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 23 May 2011]*: The Community Covenant will be launched shortly. Some £30 million has been allocated over the next four years to an associated grant scheme. Details on how communities can access this funding will be announced in due course, but it is expected to be UK wide.

Defence: Exports

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to support aviation defence exports. [55596]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The United Kingdom Trade and Industry Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) is responsible for promoting British defence industry overseas. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) supports defence exports through an active and innovative defence diplomacy initiative. All Government Ministers travelling overseas are encouraged to promote the best that Britain has to offer, including in defence and security. MOD Ministers are actively promoting defence aviation exports to international partners. Last year, I and my ministerial colleagues attended the Farnborough International Air Show which showcases the UK aviation industry, and a number of exhibitions around the world.

We recognise the important contribution defence exports can make in supporting our key strategic relationships. Exports can also help to maintain the UK's defence and aerospace industry, which employs about 300,000 people, many of whom are highly skilled and are based in north west England. Defence exports can help to reduce the cost to the taxpayer of MOD acquisition programmes through longer production runs, sharing of overheads on defence industrial facilities and contributing to development costs.

The MOD also provides international defence training to overseas pilots as part of defence diplomacy initiatives and often as part of export packages. The MOD is supporting a number of Hawk and Typhoon campaigns, including the Typhoon bid to India where we are delighted that the aircraft has been short-listed. Last year, 13 international students were trained on Hawk and Typhoon aircraft.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's fair payment guidance. [55871]

Peter Luff: In the period between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) received 9,365 invoices from tier 1 suppliers related to construction contracts covered by the fair payment guidance. Separate records are not kept for the number of these invoices paid within 14 days, but 26 of the invoices mentioned above were not paid within 30 days.

The MOD already aims to pay at least 80% of all invoices within five days in accordance with its prompt payment target. Over the period in question, the MOD paid 95.2% of all invoices within five days.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanism his Department has established to ensure its payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's fair payment guidance. [55894]

Peter Luff: The principles of fair payment are set out in a charter signed by all the former Defence Estates (now Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)) key suppliers agreeing to hasten payment to supply chain members once paid by the Ministry of Defence.

In addition, project bank accounts (PBAs) have been included in those DIO contracts with a total value exceeding £500 million as the primary vehicle to implement fair payment, and our next generation estate contracts programme will see PBAs used as a matter of course.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55736]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence holds eight contracts where personal data of UK citizens are held overseas. The following table provides the name of the contract, the country in which the data are held and the approximate number of records stored.

Contract	*Country in which data are held*	*Approximate number of personal records held*
Defence Travel Electronic Booking Information System	France	180,000
	USA	20,000
Defence Travel: Travel Management Contract	USA	310,000
Royal Navy Community Website	USA	18,000
e-bluey—hybrid system for the exchange of mail between Service personnel and family and friends	USA	33,962
Air Movements Information System (AMIS)	Germany	[1]10,000
Remote Access Movements Portal (RAMP)	USA[2]	[3]100,000
iNCS (Interim New Clothing Solution)	Canada	6,867

[1] Per month. Records are deleted 24 hours plus one minute after final sector of flight is completed.
[2] Department of Transport
[3] Per annum. Records are deleted after seven days

Fitlinxx, which provides fitness training programmes for service personnel, also hold a contract that allows for personal data of UK citizens to be held in the US. I will write to my hon. Friend with details of the number of records held once this information is available, and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date special advisers in his Department last used the Government car pool to travel in an official capacity; and on how many occasions a special adviser in his Department has travelled to their home address using the Government car pool since May 2010. [56088]

Peter Luff: The use of official cars and taxis by civil servants, and special advisers, is governed by the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

We have taken Government car pool to mean the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Special advisers have not made any use of these cars either for official travel or travel home.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56101]

Peter Luff: To keep costs as low as possible, the Ministry of Defence uses an electronic booking system together with Hogg Robinson Group that searches for and provides the cheapest and most competitive prices available through their travel search engine.

Costs cover all travel undertaken by the Department's special advisers over a 12-month period as part of their duties in support of ministerial visits around the UK and overseas. This includes, but is not limited to, visits to armed forces personnel deployed on operations and attendance at key defence diplomacy engagements.

The use of official cars and taxis by civil servants and special advisers is governed by the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

Data are provided in the following table:

Amount spent from May 2010 to 13 May 2011

Form of transport	£
Government Car	0
Private Hire Car	0
Train	877.80
Bus	0
Commercial Aircraft	56,733.26
Private Aircraft	0

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to his Department. [56057]

Peter Luff: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer the Under-Secretary of State my right hon. Friend the Member for South Leicestershire (Mr Robathan), gave on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 68W.

The Defence Fixed Telecommunications Service (DFTS) provides most of our mobile communications requirements. Under the DFTS agreement with BT, mobile communications devices including mobile telephones, BlackBerrys, 3G data cards and associated data services are supplied by Vodafone.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many first class rail journeys were undertaken by staff in his Department between April 2010 and April 2011; and what the total cost was of such journeys. [53165]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence service and civilian staff made a total of 3,356 rail journeys first class in 2010-11 at a total cost of £226,177. This represents a reduction in the cost of first-class rail travel of 96% compared to 2009-10. These statistics reflect ticket bookings made through the defence travel contract. Our staff may also arrange rail travel outside the central contract in certain circumstances but we do not hold a breakdown of such travel by class of travel.

While some staff have an entitlement to first-class rail travel, standard-class travel using the cheapest possible tickets is now the norm and significant savings have been achieved.

Further work is being undertaken to ensure our governance arrangements are robust and examine whether they need to be further tightened.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52817]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) offers a number of summer diversity internships for undergraduates each year. Full information on this scheme is available on the following website:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/faststream.

This year we are offering five places. Work experience placements are generally short-term, most commonly during half term and other holidays, for year 10 and 11 students, college students (17 to 19 years) and undergraduates. We advise anyone who wants to undertake a work experience placement to contact their nearest MOD establishment. The MOD does not offer opportunities to volunteer in the Department.

Guided Weapons

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Brimstone missiles have been used in Afghanistan in each month since January 2010. [56779]

Nick Harvey: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Hawk Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what date he expects the T1 Hawk training aircraft to be retired. [55484]

Peter Luff: The Hawk T1 current planned out of service date is 2020. The aircraft is scheduled to cease its fast jet pilot training role at RAF Valley by December 2012, by which time it will have been replaced in this role by the Hawk T2 Advanced Jet Trainer. The Hawk T1 will continue to operate in other roles, including as part of the Royal Air Force aerobatic team.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* T1 and *(b)* T2 Hawk aircraft were (i) in service, (ii) in the forward fleet and (iii) fit for purpose on the most recent date for which figures are available. [55485]

Peter Luff: The available information is provided in the following table.

	In service fleet	*Forward fleet*	*Fit for purpose*
Hawk T1	127	88	60
Hawk T2	20	19	10

In service aircraft include those undergoing planned depth maintenance but exclude those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. The forward fleet comprises aircraft which are serviceable or short-term unserviceable. Fit for purpose aircraft include only serviceable aircraft available to the front-line commands for operational and training purposes. The number of aircraft available in each category varies according to normal fleet management activities including requirements for mandated maintenance and upgrade programmes. Figures for forward fleet and fit for purpose are the monthly average for April 2011.

Two Hawk T1s involved in an accident in March 2010 have been disposed of and this has reduced the total T1 in service fleet from 129 to 127. The Hawk T2 in service fleet has increased by three to 20 due to aircraft deliveries. This answer therefore updates the figures for Hawk T1 and T2 given in previous answers on 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 748W, and 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 478W.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what comparative assessment he undertook on an airframe basis of the long-term support and ownership costs of the Joint Combat Aircraft with the *(a)* F-18E Super Hornet, *(b)* Dassault Rafale and *(c)* naval variant of the Eurofighter. [56562]

Peter Luff: Previous studies, which included comparisons with F-18, Dassault Rafale and a "navalised" variant of the Eurofighter, have consistently concluded that the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) provided the best value for money in light of our future capability requirements.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate what proportion of the long-term support and maintenance for the Joint Combat Aircraft can be completed in the UK under the current United States classification regime for that aircraft; and what proportion of the total amount of the projected annual maintenance cost such support and maintenance represents. [56563]

Peter Luff: In signing the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) programme's Production, Sustainment and Follow-on Development (PSFD) Memorandum of Understanding in 2006 the UK secured a bilateral agreement with the US concerning our requirements for operational sovereignty on the UK Joint Combat Aircraft (JCA). This includes a requirement that all long-term support and maintenance for the JCA will be carried out in the UK, using the economies of scale of the JSF global supply chain to deliver an efficient support solution to the UK and its partners. We have yet to estimate what percentage of the annual support costs will be expended in the UK as the details of the JSF global support solution will not be finalised for several years.

Joint Strike Fighter Programme

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* service personnel, *(b)* civil personnel and *(c)* contractors there are in each of the integrated product teams working on the Joint Strike Fighter programme; [56862]

(2) what the financial contribution of his Department is expected to be in respect of each integrated product team within the Joint Strike Fighter programme *(a)* in the current financial year and *(b)* in each of the next four financial years. [56863]

Peter Luff: The Joint Combat Aircraft (JCA) is the UK requirement within the overall Joint Strike Fighter programme. We do not retain information on the number of staff, their functions or cost to the over-arching JSF programme. Currently there are 36 UK civilian personnel, 34 UK service personnel and 13 contractor personnel working on the JCA programme, at an expected total running cost, including salaries, of approximately £9 million in the current financial year. We expect these numbers to grow slightly over the next four financial years, however, numbers have not been finalised due to ongoing restrictions on departmental employment.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on weapons deployed on operations over Libya since the commencement of military action. [54515]

Peter Luff: The gross book value, inclusive of VAT, of precision guided weapons fired in support of Operation Ellamy between 19 March and 8 May this year is £43.77 million.

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has sought any legal opinion on the compatibility with UN Security Council Resolution 1973 of any changes to directions on the targeting of personnel in Libya. [57099]

Nick Harvey: Our military objective remains unchanged: to enforce UN Security Council Resolution 1973, which authorises the enforcement of "all necessary measures" to protect civilians under threat of attack.

Departmental officials have worked closely with Ministry of Defence legal advisers on Libya including in relation to the targeting process.

Nuclear Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the research, development and production of Pressurised Water Reactor 3 for the four Vanguard replacement submarines; [56558]

(2) how much of the expenditure on developing and building the PWR3 reactor he expects to be incurred with suppliers in the United States; [56559]

(3) how much has been spent by his Department on research and development of the PRW2b reactor. [56560]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), announced to the House on 18 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 351-363, the approval of the "Initial Gate" investment decision for the programme to replace the Vanguard submarines and the selection of a broad design option that included PWR3 to be taken forward into full design. A decision on the number of submarines will not be taken until main gate in 2016.

As detailed in 'The United Kingdom's Future Nuclear Deterrent: The Submarine Initial Gate Parliamentary Report', the Ministry of Defence has spent around £900 million on the submarine concept phase, which included an analysis of the different reactor options. Additional research and development of PWR3 will take place as part of the assessment phase. Overall, this phase is expected to total some £3 billion. No further research or development of PWR2b will take place.

I am withholding more detailed costs of the submarine components as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Although further work needs to be done between now and main gate to refine our estimates, we expect the cost of the overall successor deterrent system to remain within the White Paper cost envelope of £15 billion to £20 billion at 2006-07 prices, of which £11 billion to £14 billion would be attributed to the cost of the replacement platform system.

A full copy of 'The United Kingdom's Future Nuclear Deterrent: The Submarine Initial Gate Parliamentary Report' can be found at the following website:

http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/7F9F5815-C67B-47B1-B5C4-168E8AB50DC3/O/submarine_initial_gate.pdf

Copies have been placed in the Vote Office and Library of the House.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of suitable sites for a prototype Pressurised Water Reactor 3; and if he will make a statement; [57094]

(2) if he will estimate the cost of building a prototype Pressurised Water Reactor 3; [57095]

(3) whether he has any plans to build a prototype Pressurised Water Reactor 3. [57096]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 23 May 2011]*: I will make an announcement in due course.

Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of awarding the Operational Allowance to members of the armed forces deployed on operations in Libya. [56690]

Peter Luff: The value of the operational allowance was doubled in May 2010 to its current level of £29.02 per day and there are in the region of 1,400 personnel participating in Operation Ellamy overseas. If the operational allowance were extended to include this deployment the estimated cost would be in the region of £1.2 million per calendar month.

The aim of the operational allowance is to recognise the significantly increased and enduring nature of the danger in specified operational locations. Libya is not considered such at this time as we are not conducting land base operations, and air patrols are being conducted from airfields elsewhere. But we are keeping this position on the operational allowance under constant review.

Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the level of funding *(a)* required and *(b)* allocated in order to meet his Department's commitments. [56781]

Peter Luff: Prior to the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) a gap of £38 billion was calculated between the cost of the defence programme and the Ministry of Defence budget under an assumption that it rises in line with inflation over the 10 years 2011-12 to 2020-21,

The SDSR and the departmental planning round 2011 have made significant steps in closing that gap. However, we have always been clear that more would need to be done.

The Department has committed to producing an assessment of the costs and affordability of the equipment programme, accompanied by an independent audit from the National Audit Office. This will be published later this year. It would be inappropriate to speculate on the size of any remaining gap in the meantime.

Research

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's research and technology budget was in each financial year since 2000-01. [56650]

Peter Luff: The most recently published figures for net Ministry of Defence (MOD) research spending in "UK Defence Statistics 2010", which includes the research programme controlled by the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA), and other activity reported as "research" in the accounts across the MOD, are shown in the following table (figures are inclusive of non-recoverable VAT at current prices):

	£ million
2000-01	566
2001-02	557
2002-03	515
2003-04	524
2004-05	639
2005-06	598
2006-07	632
2007-08	635
2008-09	584

MOD research expenditure statistics are designated national statistics status and as such the release of the figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are embargoed until their publication by the Office for National Statistics in September 2011 and 2012, respectively. However, the organisation within the MOD charged with management and procurement of research for the CSA, the largest part of the reported expenditure, recorded a net resource out-turn of some £466 million for 2009-10 and was allocated a budget of £439 million for 2010-11.

As I have informed the House in the answer I gave on 16 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 6, to my right hon. Friend the Member for North East Hampshire (Mr Arbuthnot), the science and technology budget will rise in cash terms over the comprehensive spending review period.

A complete time series detailing MOD research expenditure is published in UK Defence Statistics (Table 1.8), a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

RFA Largs Bay

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were recorded as having been assisted by RFA Largs Bay after the earthquake in Haiti. [56706]

Nick Harvey: There are no records relating to the numbers of people assisted by the involvement of RFA Largs Bays in the relief operations following the earthquake in Haiti in January 2010. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 78W, where I made clear that the vessel's role was to provide much needed supplies and equipment, but as none of the ship's personnel landed beyond the beach and no direct medical treatment was given on board the ship, it was not possible to identify how many people benefited from their contribution to the relief effort.

However, RFA Largs Bay played a critical role in delivering relief supplies as part of a wider UK and international effort. Following the initial delivery of 595 linear metres of relief supplies, corrugated sheeting and logistics equipment, including fork lift trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles, Largs Bay remained on station delivering essential supplies on behalf of international aid agencies to stricken communities around Haiti. This task could only be undertaken by sea due to extensive road and airport infrastructure damage and Largs Bay was particularly suited to the task due to the unique beach landing capability. Largs Bay's effort was part of the wider UK £20 million contribution that helped to provide more than 380,000 people with food, clean water and medical care.

Following the strategic defence and security review, the Ministry of Defence retains a variety of Royal Navy vessels able to offer humanitarian assistance.

Trident Submarines

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's latest estimate is of the cost for the Trident submarine replacement programme's concept phase and assessment phase in *(a)* constant 2006 prices and *(b)* project outturn prices accounting for inflation. [55475]

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's most recent estimate is of the cost of the Trident submarine replacement programme's concept phase and assessment phase in *(a)* constant 2006 prices and *(b)* project outturn prices accounting for inflation. [56637]

Nick Harvey: The latest estimate of the cost of the Trident submarine replacement programme concept and assessment phases is as follows:

Phase	*2006 constant prices*	*Outturn prices*
Concept	£850 million	£900 million
Assessment	£2.3 billion	£3.0 billion

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aarhus Convention

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who will be representing the UK at the meeting of parties to the Aarhus convention in June 2011. [56424]

Richard Benyon: The UK will be represented by DEFRA officials at the forthcoming Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus convention. The delegation will comprise three officials: two policy experts and one legal expert.

Air Pollution: Greater London

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to reduce the risk of exceeding European Commission requirements on nitrogen dioxide air quality limits in London. [56422]

Richard Benyon: This Government are committed to working towards compliance with European air quality standards.

Although much of the UK meets the EU air quality limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), the UK, along with many other European countries, faces a significant challenge in meeting the limit values in London and other major urban areas by 2015. We are working with the Mayor of London, the devolved Administrations, other government departments and local authorities to identify actions to help the UK meet the NO_2 limits in the shortest time possible, and expect to publish our plans for consultation in June. These must be submitted to the European Commission by September this year.

Government recently made an extra £5 million available to help tackle some of London's worst pollution hotspots. This money will help support a variety of measures such as traffic smoothing measures, the development of a no-idling zone, local cycling and walking schemes, and the introduction of 'greening' (e.g. tree and vegetation planting).

I would refer my hon. Friend to the Mayor's Air Quality Strategy (see the following link), which sets out the Mayor's plans for improving London's air quality with measures aimed at reducing emissions from transport, homes, offices and new developments, as well as raising awareness of air quality issues. The Mayor's Air Quality Strategy is available at:

http://www.london.gov.uk/publication/mayors-air-quality-strategy

Angling

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the net contribution to the economy of recreational bass fishing in England; and if she will make a statement. [57378]

Richard Benyon: I recognise the importance of recreational sea angling and the social, economic and conservation benefits associated with the sport. I am also aware there is little information available on recreational activity such as how many fishing trips take place or how many people fish from our piers and beaches.

To address this lack of information, DEFRA, in conjunction with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO); the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science; and the newly established Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities, has recently committed funds to the 'Sea Angling 2012' research project. This project will provide the most comprehensive information ever collected on recreational sea angling activity, catches and economic value in England. The recreational bass fishery will, of course, as one of England's key recreational species, be included in this wider work.

The information gathered by this project, including the economic data, will allow better informed, evidence-based decisions to be made on issues which are of importance to sea anglers—at both local and national level.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the average amount of time each day circus animals spend in cages. [56123]

Mr Paice: No such assessment has been made.

British Waterways Board

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings her Department has had with the Charity Commission to discuss her proposals to transfer the assets and liabilities of British Waterways into a charitable trust. [57056]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has had informal conversations with the Charity Commission. These have considered: the consultation proposal on governance for the new waterways charity; informal feedback on our consultation document on those aspects of the charity that concern the Charity Commission; and an early discussion on the process for registering the charity with the Charity Commission.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with which organisations her Department has had discussions on the transfer of the assets and liabilities of British Waterways into a charitable trust. [57057]

Richard Benyon: British Waterways championed the proposal to move to civil society with their stakeholders, when they published their 'Twenty Twenty—a Vision for the Future of our Canals and Rivers' in 2009.

At an early stage of Government's support for the move, we discussed emerging proposals for the charity with other Government Departments, many of our key stakeholders and a number of civil society organisations, including: those represented on DEFRA's Advisory Body on Civil Society and the Charity Commission.

We are now consulting formally on our proposals for the new waterways charity and during the consultation period, we are holding a series of meetings and workshops with key stakeholders and other interested parties. The consultation document can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/03/30/waterways-1103/

Carbon Emissions

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has any plans to assess the UK's emissions output using consumption-based inventories. [57054]

Mr Paice: In 2008 DEFRA published an evidence study that measured the UK's emissions taking a consumption-based approach. The report is titled "Embedded carbon emissions indicator—EV02033". We are now carrying out further work to update these findings.

Commons Councils

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for Commons Councils have been submitted since 2006; and how many such applications were approved in *(a)* England and *(b)* the south-east. [57225]

Richard Benyon: There is no provision in Part 2 of the Commons Act 2006 for applications to establish a commons council, and no commons council has yet been established. However, DEFRA and Natural England are working with three candidates to establish commons councils, in relation to Bodmin Moor, Brendon Common (Exmoor) and Cumbria. There are, at present, no candidates in relation to south-east England. We expect, in response to one or more robust proposals, to set up at least one commons council in 2011-12.

Dairy Farming

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the prospects for the dairy farming industry. [57138]

Mr Paice: In 2009-10 the average farm business income on dairy farms in England, as measured by the Farm Business Survey, amounted to around £56,000. Within this, over £24,000 was contributed by agricultural activities on the farm. The remainder came from agri-environment schemes, farm-based diversified activities and the single payment. Forecasts for 2010-11 suggest that average farm business income on dairy farms in England will fall by around 24% to some £42,500. This is in line with other types of livestock farm and reflects principally higher costs, particularly those associated with purchased feed.

A survey of farmers' intentions, carried out in 2010 by DairyCo, showed that almost a third of dairy farmers in the UK intended to increase their milk production over the following two years. The percentage of dairy farmers intending to implement a succession plan in the next decade increased to 43%, from 24% in 2009.

Within the Farm Business Survey a new project has just been initiated to assess farmer intentions, including dairy farmers. This will examine intentions for changes in business size and structure, including plans to expand, contract or quit milk production. Results will be available later this year.

We are confident that the UK dairy farming industry has a strong future but it will need to continue to respond to technological change and market opportunities so as to innovate, add greater value and improve its competitiveness.

Dairy Farming: Insolvency

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dairy farm businesses entered administration in each of the last five years. [57139]

Mr Paice: DEFRA does not hold figures on the number of dairy farmers entering administration. DEFRA does, however, hold information on the number of dairy farmers exiting the industry each year.

The following table gives the number of registered UK dairy production holdings recorded each June for the last five years, together with the change from the previous year.

	Holdings	*Change From Previous*
2006	19,011	-1,302
2007	17,915	-1,096
2008	17,060	-855
2009	16,404	-656
2010	15,716	-688

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by her Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53805]

Richard Benyon: The following schedule provides details of and existing use values for the freehold and long leasehold property assets currently held by DEFRA.

These valuation figures represent the monetary value of the property assets in their existing use for the furtherance of DEFRA's business activities. In the case of specialist properties, such as laboratories and research facilities, the existing use value is often in excess of the open market value of the property with vacant possession.

The schedule contains operational assets and those owned assets which are surplus or which will be surplus to business need in the medium term.

Romeo No.	*Building*	*Location*	*Tenure*	*Existing use value March 2010*
079	VIC Kendal Road Harlescott	Shrewsbury	Freehold	3,665,000
081	VIC Barton Hall Garstang Road	Preston	Freehold	5,020,000
082	The Nothe Barrack Road	Weymouth	Freehold	11,180,000
083	VIC Langford House Langford	Bristol	Long leasehold	905,000
085	Staplake Mount Starcross	Exeter	Freehold	5,105,000
086	VIC Polwhele Truro Road	Truro	Freehold	690,000
087	VLA Woodham Lane New Haw	Weybridge	Freehold	145,746,314
094	Lowestoft Fish Lab Complex Pakefield Road	Lowestoft	Freehold	4,526,721
101	Thirsk VIC West House Station Road	Thirsk	Freehold	3,580,000
102	Radiobiological Lab West Pier	Whitehaven	Long leasehold	10,000
129	Government Buildings Whittington Road	Worcester	Freehold	5,800,000
133	Prince of Wales House Prince of Wales Road	Dorchester	Long leasehold	380,000
138	Quantock House Paul Street	Taunton	Freehold	3,200,000
141	Pydar House Pydar Street	Truro	Freehold	3,500,000
153	Government Buildings Coley Park	Reading	Freehold	2,500,000
158	Government Buildings Southgate Street	Bury St Edmunds	Freehold	1,550,000
168	Ceres House Searby Road	Lincoln	Long leasehold	1,034,000
175	Crosskill House Mill Lane	Beverley	Freehold	1,945,000
177	Eden Bridge House Lowther Street	Carlisle	Freehold	2,900,000
186	Agricola House Gilwilly Trading Estate	Penrith	Long leasehold	260,000
193	55 Whitehall	London	Long leasehold	8,200,000
216	Wildlife Unit Aston Down	Stroud	Freehold	675,000
227	46 Fore Street	Newlyn	Freehold	100,000
230	Longacre House Frome Road	Trowbridge	Freehold	245,000
237	VIC Itchen Abbas	Winchester	Freehold	3,350,000
251	Crown Building Whitehouse Lane	Cambridge	Long leasehold	980,000
272	VIC Longbenton Whitley Road	Newcastle upon Tyne	Freehold	2,195,000
278	VIC Rougham Hill	Bury St Edmunds	Freehold	3,510,000
281	Fera Sand Hutton	York	Freehold	101,974,246
505	VIC Luddington College Road	Stratford-on-Avon	Freehold	4,110,000
533	VIC Jobs Well Lane Heol Dyfnallt	Carmarthen	Freehold	2,060,000
534	VIC Buarth Road	Aberystwyth	Long leasehold.	820,000
557	Curwen Road	Workington	Freehold	2,100,000
562	Hornbeam House Electra Way	Crewe	Long leasehold	3,100,000
569	Saffron House Tigers Rd Wigston	Leicester	Freehold	815,000
598	Watchtree FMD Site Allerdale	Carlisle	Freehold	-6,040,000
599	Tow Law FMD Site	Durham	Freehold	-810,000
613	Ash Moor FMD Site Meeth	Tiverton	Freehold	300,000
617	Throckmorton—Areas A, B and C FMD Site Long Lane	Pershore	Long leasehold	-3,000,000

Romeo No.	*Building*	*Location*	*Tenure*	*Existing use value March 2010*
663	Eastbrook Shaftesbury Road	Cambridge	Freehold	6,000
767	Zebra House Great North Road	Alnwick	Freehold	1,600,000
087(2)	Holme Farm	Weybridge	Freehold	95,000
087(3)	Coombelands Farm	Weybridge	Freehold	8,105,000
087(4)	Grange and Manor Farm	Weybridge	Freehold	4,435,000
087(5)	Halls Farm	Weybridge	Freehold	2,970,000
087(6)	Appstree Farm	Weybridge	Freehold	1,750,000
087(7)	Old Rectory Farm	Weybridge	Freehold	2,020,000
087	Grange Farm, Coombelands Farm and Hall Farm dwellings	Weybridge	Freehold	2,710,000
087	Rectory Farm	Weybridge	Freehold	0
308	Arthur Rickwood Farm	Mepal	Freehold	1,000,000
308	Arthur Rickwood Farm—Sheep Building	Mepal	Freehold	2,348,000
308	Arthur Rickwood farm dwellings	Mepal	Freehold	385,000
311	Drayton Farm	Stratford-on-Avon	Freehold	30,318,500
311(1)	Drayton Farm dwellings	Stratford-on-Avon	Freehold	1,100,000
311(2)	Drayton Office/Laboratory	Stratford-on-Avon	Freehold	75,000
054	Sowerby Buffer Depot Victoria Avenue	Thirsk	Freehold	275,000
061	Rhydymwyn PSA Supply Depot Nant Alyn Road	Mold	Freehold	(5,000,000)
067	Workshop Polwhele	Truro	Freehold	270,000
131	Burghill Road Westbury on Trym	Bristol	Long leasehold	1,750,000
268	Rhydymwyn Building No. 2	Mold	Freehold	60,000
272	Newcastle upon Tyne Longbenton Surplus Land	Newcastle upon Tyne	Freehold	970,000
302	Sewage Treatment Plant Milford Road	Efford	Freehold	0
308	Paradise Cottage, Arthur Rickwood Farm	Mepal	Freehold	145,000
309	Boxworth Farm offices Battlegate Road	Boxworth	Freehold	1,000,000
309	Boxworth Farm remaining Land (Extra Farm)	Boxworth	Freehold	450,000
311(3)	Nutritional Science Unit Drayton Farm	Stratford-on-Avon	Freehold	55,000
617	Throckmorton Airfield farmland	Pershore	Freehold.	850,000
703	John Dower House Crescent Place	Cheltenham	Freehold	1,750,000

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the name is of each contractor or supplier of *(a)* mobile telephone and *(b)* mobile data services to her Department. [56061]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is included in the following table.

			Executive Agencies				
	DEFRA	*RPA*	*CEFAS*	*FERA*	*VMD*	*AH*	*VLA*
(a) Supplier of mobile phones	Vodafone	Vodafone Orange	Vodafone Orange	Vodafone Orange	T Mobile	Vodafone Orange	Vodafone
(b) Supplier of mobile data services	Vodafone	Vodafone	Vodafone	Vodafone Orange	T Mobile Vodafone	Vodafone Orange	Vodafone

Notes:
CEFAS—has one handset from Orange due to signal coverage.
FERA—The main contractor/supplier of mobile telephone services is Vodafone with some additional provision by Orange. The main contractor/supplier of mobile data services is Vodafone with some additional provision by Orange.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on travel in respect of *(a)* each of her Department's executive agencies and *(b)* the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. [56176]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is included in the following table:

Executive agencies

						£
	RPA	*CEFAS*	*FERA*	*VMD*	*AH*	*VLA*
(a) Travel	2,400,000	494,721	630,634	189,688	2,382,172	441,424

Executive agencies

£

	RPA	*CEFAS*	*FERA*	*VMD*	*AH*	*VLA*
(b) Chief executives travel	5,797	6,191	8,879	4,679	8,470	3,081

Notes:
1. VLA: Travel includes staff mileage payments and excludes accommodation and subsistence. The CEO travel costs also include/exclude these and both are for 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011
2. VMD: Period is 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011. Both figures exclude costs of travel recovered from EU Commission and industry.
3. AH: Period is for 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011. The travel total includes all operational travel by the Veterinary and Technical grades. The CEO total is for the period 1 May 2010 to 31 March 2011.
4. CEFAS: Period is 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. Includes travel: air, rail, bus/coach, ferry/channel tunnel and taxis (private hire). These include journeys undertaken in the fulfilment of non-Government customer contracts. The travel cost for these non-Government contracts is reimbursed by the recipient of these services in the charges made and income received.
5. FERA: Expenditure is for the period May 2010 to March 2011.
6. RPA: Expenditure is for the period May 2010 to March 2011.

The information is provided on the basis that the final accounts for the year 2010-11 are still being audited by the National Audit Office.

Food: Origin Marking

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Protected Destinations of Origin designations have been made in the last 10 years. [57042]

Mr Paice: Since 2001, three UK applications submitted to. the EU have been awarded Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) status under the EU Protected Food Names (PFN) scheme. These are:

Staffordshire Cheese (2007)
Isle of Man Manx Loaghtan Lamb (2008)
Yorkshire Forced Rhubarb (2010)

During the same period, a further six UK products have received Protected Geographical Indications (PGI) status and one has been registered as a Traditional Speciality Guaranteed (TSG).

Further information about the scheme and the food and drink names which have been registered under it can be found on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/food/protected-names/

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in respect of which products have applications for approval to be awarded Protected Destinations of Origin been submitted which are awaiting a decision. [57044]

Mr Paice: There are 10 UK applications currently being considered for registration as Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) products. These are at various stages of the process as follows:

At EU stage	*Under DEFRA assessment*	*Under development with ADAS*[1]
Isle of Man Queenies	Fal Oysters	Guernsey Butter
Native Shetland Wool	—	Jersey Black Butter
—	—	Lakeland Herdwick Lamb
—	—	Sussex Fowl
—	—	Welsh Cider
—	—	Welsh Perry
—	—	Halen Mon Anglesey Sea Salt

[1] ADAS act as the delivery agent for DEFRA with respect to certain activities under the Protected Food Name Scheme. These include working with applicant groups.

Further information about the scheme and the applications can be found on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/food/protected-names/

Food: Waste

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much imported food was destroyed as a result of being declared unfit for human consumption in the latest period for which figures are available. [57043]

Mr Paice: Neither DEFRA nor the Food Standards Agency collects this information centrally. This means that collated data cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Origin Marking: Israel

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason the guidelines on place of origin labelling issued by her Department on 10 December 2009 do not apply to all products on sale in the UK that originate in Israeli settlements. [56220]

Mr Paice: The technical advice referred to by the hon. Member only applies to fresh produce since representations made to this Department prior to its issue suggested that labelling guidance would be of particular value in relation to that category of imports from the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Origin labelling of products other than food and drink is the responsibility of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Pigs: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects on domestic pig farmers of imports from countries with lower welfare standards than the UK. [57041]

Mr Paice: All pig producers in the European Union (EU) have to comply with EU pig welfare rules. UK legislation currently requires higher welfare standards for pigs, in a few respects, than in other EU countries. The most significant being that in the UK close-confinement sow stalls have been unilaterally banned since 1999. Similar requirements will not be introduced across the EU until 2013 which will help to provide a more level playing field for UK producers.

Consumer demand for high welfare products has prompted some retailers to set an animal welfare component within their own private standards which their suppliers (UK and other suppliers) must meet. These are in addition to minimum legal standards set down in EU welfare rules.

The Government and the UK industry are watching European competitors and the Commission closely to ensure that there is no reneging on implementation of these new standards across the EU.

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking *(a)* nationally and *(b)* with her EU counterparts to ensure compliance with animal welfare standards are met with respect to the import of pork. [56713]

Mr Paice: All pig producers in the EU have to comply with EU pig welfare rules. UK legislation currently requires higher welfare standards for pigs, in a few respects, than in other EU countries. The most significant being that in the UK close confinement sow stalls have been unilaterally banned since 1999. Similar requirements will not be introduced across the EU until 2013 which will help to provide a more level playing field for UK producers.

If any member state were to seek an extension to the 2013 sow stall ban, the UK would strongly oppose it. We recognise any extension would disadvantage UK producers who have invested heavily in converting to alternative systems.

The Government are committed to ensure that food procured by Government Departments and eventually the whole public sector, meets British or equivalent standards of production, wherever this can be achieved, without increasing overall cost. In addition, consumer demand for high welfare products has prompted some retailers to set an animal welfare component within their own private standards which their suppliers (UK and other suppliers) must meet. These are in addition to minimum legal standards set down in EU welfare rules.

The Government and the UK industry are watching European competitors and the Commission closely to ensure that there is no reneging on implementation of these new standards across the EU.

Plastic Bags

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on reducing plastic bag usage via retailers in the latest period for which figures are available. [56423]

Richard Benyon: Annual figures for the period May 2006 to May 2010 show a continuous year-on-year reduction in the numbers and in the weight of all bags.

For single use carrier bags, the reduction over the period was 43% in numbers distributed and 51% by weight.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what support she expects to receive from other EU member states for her request for an intercommunity trade ban on eggs produced in conventional battery cages after 1 January 2012; [56619]

(2) whether she has received representations from any EU member state wishing to delay the introduction of the trade ban for eggs produced in conventional battery cages beyond the current deadline; [56620]

(3) what steps she is taking to ensure that eggs and egg products entering the UK after 1 January 2012 are from legal production systems. [56621]

Mr Paice: We wish to protect compliant producers from any competitive disadvantage of illegal production in other member states or indeed the UK. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has urged the European Commission to put additional enforcement measures in place at EU level to prevent market disturbance.

The introduction of a time limited intra-community trade ban on eggs produced from conventional cages was one of the enforcement options proposed at a stakeholder meeting in Brussels in January 2011 and is still under consideration by the Commission's legal services.

As the Secretary of State made it clear at February's Agriculture Council meeting, when Poland, Romania and Bulgaria sought more time, any delay in implementing the ban would be grossly unfair to all the egg producers in the UK who have made significant investments to convert out of battery cages ahead of the European deadline. No further representations have been received.

The UK has consistently called for the ban to be implemented in 2012 with strict enforcement by the EU and we will continue to play a full part in EU discussions on a practical enforcement solution.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of imports from countries with lower welfare standards than the UK on domestic poultry farmers. [57039]

Mr Paice: There is a large body of legislation at European Union (EU) level to improve animal welfare which all livestock producers in the EU have to comply with. EU legislation must be implemented in full across the EU so that UK producers have a level playing field and do not have to try and compete with non-compliant producers.

As well as promoting high animal welfare standards in this country, we are keen to encourage high animal welfare standards internationally, both in other EU countries and in third countries.

Within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) multilateral framework there is little scope for the EU to enforce higher levels of production standards, including those relating to animal welfare, in countries from which the EU imports goods. However, OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) is playing a major role in developing and progressing internationally recognised standards for animal welfare.

The UK continues to work with the European Union and the WTO membership to advocate high animal welfare standards.

River Rom

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to reduce levels of *(a)* nitrates and *(b)* eutrophication in the River Rom. [57040]

Richard Benyon: In the more urban areas of the River Rom, pollution sources of nitrates and phosphates are generally from misconnections, combined sewer overflows and surcharging sewers. The Environment Agency is working with Thames Water to address misconnections and identify improvements needed.

Part of the River Rom in the more rural areas is designated as a nitrate vulnerable zone. Farmers in the more rural areas along the River Rom will have to comply with the nitrates directive and this requires them to prepare a risk map for land on which they intend to spread nitrate rich fertilisers. The Environment Agency carries out farm visits to check compliance and deal with any identified failures on a risk-based approach.

Working with landowners, local authorities and local business in a collaborative approach, an action plan will be produced for the River Rom by the end of 2012. This will identify the additional improvements required to meet the objectives of the water framework directive.

Scallops: Dredging

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made on the effects of scallop dredging on marine ecosystems. [57038]

Richard Benyon: As part of the ongoing assessment of the effects of scallop dredging on marine ecosystems, the Government are drawing on a number of different studies, both those funded by DEFRA and those produced by other organisations.

These studies include a review which Natural England recently undertook on behalf of DEFRA on the risks from all ongoing activities within European marine sites. The review looked at the effects of scallop dredging in Special Areas of Conservation and a copy of Natural England's final report on this can be found on its website at:

http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/NERR038

Additionally, 'Lyme Bay: a case study measuring the effects of benthic species and assessing the potential spillover effects and socio-economic changes' is currently being undertaken by the University of Plymouth for DEFRA. Information about the project is available on the DEFRA website at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=16366

A full report will be available when the study concludes in spring 2012.

Finally, the Seafish Ecodredge project completed in 2003 also provides information on the direct and indirect effects of scallop dredging:

http://www.seafish.org/media/Publications/CR199_200Ecodredge_Executive_Summary.pdf

Set-aside Schemes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the effects on biodiversity of the ending of set-aside; [57032]

(2) whether she has considered the merits of introducing an incentive similar to set-aside to promote wildlife conservation in agricultural areas. [57033]

Mr Paice: Set-aside was originally introduced as a means to control production. Its requirements also provided a range of environmental benefits that helped biodiversity by providing winter and summer nesting habitat and food sources for farmland birds, as well as supporting a range of more common plants, insects and mammals and improving the quality of soil and water. The set-aside mechanism was abolished from January 2009. Consequently, many of the recognised environmental benefits of set-aside land may have been lost.

Agri-environment schemes such as Environmental Stewardship already offer incentives to farmers to undertake wildlife conservation and other environmental management of their land. Our schemes are better attuned to delivering environmental benefits than simply taking land out of production. Nearly 60,000 farmers are signed up to our schemes.

The Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE), which was launched in November 2009, gives the farming community itself the opportunity to demonstrate that through their own actions, farmers are best placed to decide on and tackle their local environmental priorities, improve biodiversity and promote wildlife conservation, without regulation. My priority is to ensure the campaign is a success. I do not believe that Government should regulate if the farming industry delivers enhanced benefits for wildlife in agricultural areas. A CFE working group has been set up to assess and measure the environmental outcomes the work being done by farmers is delivering.

Zoos: Licensing

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department takes to disseminate information to zoos on requirements in respect of the licensing of animals. [56341]

Mr Paice: Advice and guidance on the provisions of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 is published on the DEFRA website. Government Circular 02/2003 in particular contains detailed information on the inspection and licensing of zoos.

Information relating to animal health conditions for trade within the EU and import of zoo animals into the EU from third countries is provided through DEFRA's regular meetings with stakeholders. The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) has issued comprehensive guidance on the requirements for trade to zoos and other premises that keep exotic animals.

Information relating to changes in EU legislation and international disease threats is available on the DEFRA website and is circulated by DEFRA through Customer Importer Information Notes and Official Veterinary Surgeon Notes. Zoos can be added to the distribution list for these notes at their request.

Licensing requirements for species listed under the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) are publicised on the AHVLA website. AHVLA also sends out a CITES bulletin twice a year and holds biannual meetings with members of the Sustainable Users Network (SUN). Several zoos are SUN members and are on the CITES bulletin distribution list.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

China: Overseas Aid

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 14W, on departmental manpower, what his Department's aid contribution to China is; how such aid is provided; when provision of such aid is due to conclude; and whether all his Department's staff based in China will be withdrawn from that country after such aid provision has concluded. [57197]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's bilateral aid programme to China ended in March 2011. DFID will retain a small number of staff in the British embassy in Beijing to strengthen the UK Government's partnership with China on global development issues, including climate change, peacekeeping and poverty reduction in Africa.

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around his Department's premises; and how much such cameras cost to *(a)* install and *(b)* operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56838]

Mr Duncan: CCTV systems are in use at both our UK sites, however for security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide details of the number of cameras.

The original installation was undertaken during the building fit-out and the specific cost of this element is not available. Replacement and operating costs are included as part of wider contracts for the maintenance of security equipment and the provision of guarding services. There is no cost breakdown for the operating costs.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 14W, on departmental manpower, how many staff of his Department are based in *(a)* Belgium, *(b)* Italy, *(c)* France, *(d)* Switzerland and *(e)* the US. [57195]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development has a total of 20 staff working in Belgium, Italy, France, Switzerland and the USA. Due to security reasons DFID does not release exact numbers of staff based in overseas locations.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 14W, on departmental manpower, for what reasons his Department has employees based in *(a)* Italy and *(b)* France. [57196]

Mr O'Brien: Department for International Development (DFID) officials are based in Italy serving in the UK delegation who have overall responsibility for the UK's engagement with the Rome based UN Food and Agriculture Agencies. We have staff serving in the EU delegation, advising on food security, agriculture and rural development. DFID also has staff in France serving in the UK delegation with overall responsibility for UK engagement with UNESCO.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and (f) private aircraft since May 2010. [56096]

Mr Duncan: Overseas travel undertaken by special advisers has been to accompany the Secretary of State for International Development in order to provide advice on DFID country programmes and international meetings.

A breakdown of travel costs for DFID special advisers since May 2010 is as follows:

	£
(a) Government Car	0
(b) Private car hire	0
(c) Train (including Europe)	580.50
(d) Bus	0
(e) Commercial aircraft	34,963.62
(f) Private aircraft	0

Departmental Procurement

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on procuring fairly traded tea and coffee for internal use; and whether there has been any change in this policy since May 2010. [56660]

Mr Duncan: All tea and coffee procured directly by DFID from our contract caterers in the UK for official meetings is fairly traded, and is Fairtrade certified. There has been no change in policy since May 2010.

Commercially available tea and coffee for sale through the catering outlets in the DFID offices are either Rainforest Alliance or Fairtrade certified.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56764]

Mr O'Brien: The Research and Evidence division of the Department for International Development (DFID) is responsible for systematically collecting and synthesising evidence and data on international development. This is produced as a global public good available for all users including our own country offices and policy division to ensure our aid programmes are based on evidence of what works. This division has not initiated any substantial longitudinal research in the last 12 months. A number of projects, however, have been initiated (63), terminated (four), and amended (three) in the last 12 months, though the majority of our research and data collection (over 100 projects) have not been amended in that period. I have placed a list of the 63 centrally-funded research projects that have been initiated by DFID in the last 12 months in the Library of the House. Research and data collection is also funded by the regional divisions in DFID to inform their own operations.

Developing Countries: Fossil Fuels

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has discussed with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change the potential effect on developing countries of investment by the World Bank in fossil fuels in such countries. [57389]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) have regular discussions on this issue. We work closely together to ensure that the World Bank meets our shared objectives of increasing access to energy for those who lack it, and of reducing the World Bank's investments in fossil fuels and increasing its investment in clean energy.

Developing Countries: Sanitation

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people his Department plans to provide with *(a)* access to clean water, *(b)* improved sanitation and *(c)* hygiene awareness programmes in each country under the proposals in its Bilateral Aid Review. [57248]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) aims to provide access to clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene awareness to developing countries as contained in the following table. These are subject to finalisation of operational plans and development of detailed business cases demonstrating the value for money to be achieved by each proposed programme.

Number

Countries	*People with access to sustainable clean drinking water*	*People with sustainable access to an improved sanitation facility*	*People reached through hygiene promotion activities*
Bangladesh	1,278,000	613,000	3,623,200
DRC	6,200,000	6,200,000	6,200,000
Ethiopia	1,400,000	604,000	1,600,000
India	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Malawi	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Mozambique	504,000	364,000	—
Nepal	240,000	110,000	195,000
Nigeria	2,900,000	3,800,000	5,500,000
Sierra Leone	1,194,000	1,508,300	2,637,600
Sudan	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Tanzania	405,000	—	—
Vietnam	—	325,000	—
Zambia	230,800	3,000,000	3,000,000
Zimbabwe	1,055,000	598,000	920,000

[1] Details will be made available in operational plans for these countries, which be published on the DFID website in due course.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of people who will be provided with *(a)* access to clean water, *(b)* improved sanitation and *(c)* hygiene awareness programmes delivered through multilateral organisations and funded by his Department in 2011-12. [57249]

Mr O'Brien: We are currently working to determine whether a reliable estimate of the number of people reached through multilaterals in these areas can be readily attributed. This is a complex calculation depending on variable factors including our share of the core funding to each multilateral, how they allocate their funds within sectors and the results they are planning to achieve in 2011-12.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much bilateral aid his Department plans to provide for *(a)* access to clean water, *(b)* improved sanitation and *(c)* hygiene awareness to each developing country in 2011-12. [57250]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) plans to provide bilateral aid for access to clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene awareness to developing countries in 2011-12 as contained in the following table. These figures are subject to finalisation of operational plans and development of detailed business cases demonstrating the value for money to be achieved by each proposed programme.

Country/region	*2011-12 funding (£000)*
Democratic Republic of Congo	10,000
Ethiopia	26,400
Liberia	2,500
Malawi	[1]—
Mozambique	8,000
Nigeria	7,571
Sierra Leone	10,400
Sudan	[1]—
Tanzania	6,000
Uganda	600

Country/region	*2011-12 funding (£000)*
Zambia	3,000
Zimbabwe	8,000
Bangladesh	6,000
Central Asia	500
India	[1]—
Nepal	1,000
Vietnam	1,600

[1] Details will be made available in operational plans for these countries, which will be published on the DFID website in due course.

Note:

It is not possible to disaggregate these figures into water supply, sanitation and hygiene until programmes are designed in detail.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department has provided to developing countries for investment in *(a)* safe water and *(b)* sanitation and hygiene in each year since 1997. [57278]

Mr O'Brien: Details of UK aid expenditure, including the proportion directed to safe water, sanitation and hygiene are published annually in 'Statistics on International Development' (SID), which is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/Statistic-on-International-Development-2010/

Specific information on this sector is only available from 2003-04. Prior to this, water, sanitation and hygiene statistics were incorporated within broader sectors such as social services, environment and health. Available water and sanitation figures are as follows (consolidated water and sanitation figures available only):

DFID bilateral spend on water and sanitation

	£ million
2003-04	29.9
2004-05	31.2
2005-06	48.1
2006-07	60.4
2007-08	71.6
2008-09	88.4
2009-10	105.9

Indian Subcontinent: Sanitation

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department is providing to *(a)* India, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* Bangladesh and *(d)* Nepal for the purposes of investment in (i) safe waters and (ii) sanitation and hygiene in 2011-12. [57277]

Mr O'Brien: Through our bilateral programmes, the Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £23,000,000 to Bangladesh and £4,000,000 to Nepal for water and sanitation from 2011-12 to 2014-15. Among other gains, we estimate that an additional 110,000 people will benefit from safe latrines in Nepal by 2015 as a direct result of these UK funds. In Bangladesh, we estimate an additional 1.28 million people will benefit from increased access to safe drinking water; 613,000 will benefit from improved sanitation facilities and about 20 million will be reached through hygiene awareness.

DFID's bilateral aid programme in Pakistan does not have a specific allocation for water and sanitation, as this area is already supported by other donors. However, water and sanitation has been one of the priority areas of humanitarian support following the 2010 floods.

DFID is awaiting the International Development Select Committee's report on UK aid to India before finalising detailed sector activities in the country, including work on water and sanitation.

Overseas Aid

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria his Department uses to determine what Government expenditure overseas is reckoned within the proportion of gross national income counted as official development assistance. [56626]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) uses the internationally agreed standard definition of Official Development Assistance laid down by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

JUSTICE

Civil Proceedings

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of effects of proposed limits on success fees applied to personal injury claimants on the average amount of compensation paid to personal injury claimants; [57263]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of proposed changes to the recoverability of success and other associated fees in civil litigation cases on lower socioeconomic groups; [57292]

(3) pursuant to the statement of 29 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 173-4, on reforming civil justice, what assessment he has made of *(a)* savings and *(b)* costs to the public purse of his proposed reforms to civil litigation in each of the next five years; [57318]

(4) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of removing the recoverability of after-the-event insurance and success fees from a losing party in civil litigation on *(a)* the number of personal injury cases undertaken by lawyers per year and *(b)* the level of payments to personal injury claimants. [57403]

Mr Djanogly: 'Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response' was published on 29 March 2011. An updated impact assessment was published alongside the response.

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an assessment of the likely effect on insurance premiums of the proposals announced in the White Paper on reform of civil litigation funding and costs. [57373]

Mr Djanogly: On 29 March this year the Government announced that they would be implementing the changes set out in 'Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales - Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: the Government Response'. An impact assessment was published alongside the Government response. The Association of British Insurers confirmed that "motorists can look forward to cheaper insurance in the future".

Courts: Fees and Charges

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what facility HM Courts and Tribunals Service has for a litigant in person who qualifies for a court fee exemption to make an urgent application for a stay of proceedings in cases where a letter from the Department for Work and Pensions confirming the exemption is not immediately available. [57045]

Mr Djanogly: If a litigant needs to make an urgent application for a stay of proceedings and they do not have the required evidence to support an application for a fee remission they can give the court a written undertaking that they will provide the evidence to support an application for fee remission or pay the appropriate fee within five working days of the urgent application being made.

If the litigant fails to comply with the undertaking it gives to the court the proceedings for which the undertaking was provided will be stopped, struck out or the order obtained revoked.

The remission system and this provision is set out in full in the court leaflet "Court Fees—Do I have to pay them" available from all court offices and as a download from the Justice website.

Departmental Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57116]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Giving White Paper published on Monday 23 May 2011 outlines the Government's proposals to encourage charitable giving. As part of this, all Ministry of Justice Ministers have pledged to undertake a "One Day Challenge"—a voluntary commitment to give one day of their time over the course of a year to a charity or community group of their choice.

Departmental Manpower

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many independent *(a)* domestic violence adviser and *(b)* sexual violence adviser posts funded by his Department there have been in each year since their inception; and where each post has been located. [56900]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has contributed towards the funding of independent domestic violence adviser (IDVA) posts in services supporting victims through the specialist domestic violence courts (SDVCs) since 2007-08. Ministry of Justice funding is set out in table 1. Our commitment has been to provide a grant for a period of three years only, after which local areas are expected to continue to fund the service.

From 2011-12 the Ministry of Justice will also fund 44 IDVA posts from the Victim and Witness General Fund, as set out in table 2.

The Home Office has funded IDVAs for 2011-12 and a list of those who received funding can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/idva/

In addition to this, the Home Office has funded a number of independent sexual violence adviser (ISVA) posts since 2006-2007, as set out in table 3.

Table 1: Ministry of Justice IDVA funding

Specialist domestic violence court area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
Bedford	1	1	1	0	0	0
Bury St Edmunds	0	0	1	1	1	0
Cambridge/Huntingdon non SDVC	1	1	1	0	0	0
Essex SDVC	1	1	0	0	0	0
Ipswich SDVC	1	1	0	0	0	0
Lowestoft	0	0	1	1	1	0
Luton	1	1	1	0	0	0
Norwich SDVC	1	1	0	0	0	0
Peterborough SDVC	1	1	0	0	0	0
Hemel Hempstead (Herts)	1	1	1	0	0	0
St Albans	0	0	1	1	1	0
East Herts	0	0	1	1	1	0
NE Derbs and Dales	1	1	1	0	0	0
Derby SDVC	1	1	1	0	0	0
Leicester City	1	1	1	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	1	1	1	0	0	0
Loughborough SDVC (Loughboro-Leicester City)	1	2	2	1	0	0
Mansfield	1	1	1	0	0	0
Northants	1	1	1	0	0	0
Nottingham	1	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	1	1	1	0	0	0
Gateshead	0	1	1	1	0	0
Hartlepool	0	0	0	1	1	1
Newcastle	0	0	2	1	1	0

Table 1: Ministry of Justice IDVA funding

Specialist domestic violence court area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
North Tyneside	0	0	1	1	1	0
Stockton—non SDVC supporting at Teesside	1	1	1	0	0	0
South East Northumberland	0	0	0	1	1	1
South Tyneside	0	0	0	1	1	1
Sunderland	1	1	1	0	0	0
Teesside SDVC (Cleveland)	1	1	1	0	0	0
Blackburn with Darwen	1	1	1	0	0	0
Blackpool and Fylde	1	1	0	0	0	0
Fylde—non SDVC	1	1	1	0	0	0
Bolton	0	0	1	1	1	0
Burnley (Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale)	1	1	1	0	0	0
Bury	0	0	0	1	1	1
Rossendale (Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Carlisle	1	1	0	0	0	0
Chester	1	1	0	0	0	0
Crewe, Eastern Cheshire	1	1	1	0	0	0
Fleetwood	0	0	1	1	1	0
Halton	1	1	1	0	0	0
Knowsley	1	1	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	1	1	1	0	0	0
Liverpool	1	1	0	0	0	0
Manchester	1	1	2	0	0	0
Oldham	0	0	0	1	1	1
Ormskirk W Lancs	0	1	1	1	0	0
Preston	1	1	1	0	0	0
Rochdale	0	0	0	1	1	1
Salford SDVC	1	1	0	0	0	0
Sefton SDVC	1	1	1	0	0	0
South Cumbria (Barrow and Kendal)	1	1	1	0	0	0
South Ribble and Chorley	1	1	1	0	0	0
St Helens	0	1	1	0	0	0
Stockport	0	0	0	1	1	1
Tameside	0	0	1	1	1	0
Trafford	0	0	0	1	1	1
Warrington	2	2	2	0	0	0
West Cumbria (Workington and Whitehaven)	1	1	1	0	0	0
Wigan	1	1	0	0	0	0
Wirral	1	1	0	0	0	0
Berkshire: Reading, Newbury, Maidenhead	1	1	1	0	0	0
Brighton and Hove	1	1	1	0	0	0
Bucks (Wycombe and Beaconsfield)	0	0	0	1	1	1
East Sussex: Hastings, Eastbourne, Lewes and Crowborough	1	1	1	0	0	0
High Wycombe, Maidenhead—non SDVC	1	1	1	0	0	0
Isle of Wight—non SDVC	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kent: Canterbury, Shepway, Ashford, Dover, Thanet non SDVC	1	1	1	0	0	0
Kent: Maidstone (Dover, Chatham)	0	1	1	1	0	0
Milton Keynes	1	1	1	0	0	0
NE Hants (Alton)	1	1	0	0	0	0
North Oxford (Banbury)	0	1	1	1	0	0
NW Hants (Andover)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Oxford City	1	1	1	0	0	0
Portsmouth	1	1	0	0	0	0
Southampton	1	1	1	0	0	0
West Sussex: Worthing, Crawley	1	1	1	0	0	0
Barnstaple	1	1	1	0	0	0
Bath South West Region	1	1	1	0	0	0
Bristol	1	1	2	0	0	0
Cheltenham SDVC	1	1	0	0	0	0
East and Mid-West Cornwall (Bodmin, Truro)	1	1	1	0	0	0
East Dorset (Bournemouth and Poole)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Exeter	1	1	0	0	0	0
North Avon (Yate)	1	1	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	1	1	1	0	0	0

Table 1: Ministry of Justice IDVA funding

Specialist domestic violence court area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
Plymouth	1	1	0	0	0	0
Salisbury	0	0	1	1	1	0
Sedgemoor (Bridgewater)	1	1	0	0	0	0
South Somerset (Yeovil)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Torbay non SDVC	1	1	1	0	0	0
Torquay (Torbay)	1	1	1	0	0	0
West Dorset (Weymouth)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire: Chippenham	1	1	1	0	0	0
Wiltshire: Swindon	1	1	1	0	0	0
Birmingham SDVC	1	1	1	0	0	0
Cannock and Stafford	1	1	0	0	0	0
Coventry	1	1	1	0	0	0
Dudley	1	1	1	0	0	0
Herefordshire	0	0	1	1	1	0
North Staffs (Newcastle and Moorlands with Stoke on Trent areas)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Sandwell	1	1	0	0	0	0
Shrewsbury, North Shropshire, Oswestry	1	1	1	0	0	0
Solihull	0	1	1	1	0	0
South East Staffs (Burton)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Tamworth	0	0	1	1	1	0
Telford	1	1	1	0	0	0
Walsall	1	1	0	0	0	0
Warks: Nuneaton and Bedworth, Rugby, Stratford	0	1	1	1	0	0
Wolverhampton	1	1	0	0	0	0
Worcs SDVC (Bromsgrove and Redditch, Worcs, S Worcs and Kidderminster)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Barnsley	1	1	0	0	0	0
Bradford	1	1	2	0	0	0
Calderdale	1	1	1	0	0	0
Doncaster	1	1	0	0	0	0
East Riding	1	1	0	0	0	0
Hull	1	1	0	0		0
Kirklees	0	0	1	1	1	0
Leeds	1	1	0	0	0	0
Rotherham	1	1	0	0	0	0
Scarborough and Ryedale	1	1	0	0	0	0
Scunthorpe, Grimsby (and Cleethorpes) non SDVC	1	1	1	0	0	0
Sheffield	1	1	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	1	1	1	0	0	0
York and Selby	1	1	1	0	0	0
Camden and Islington non SDVC	0	0	1	1	1	0
Hackney non SDVC	0	0	1	1	1	0
Lewisham non SDVC	0	0	1	1	1	0
Waltham Forest non SDVC	0	0	1	1	1	0
Barking and Dagenham non-SDVC	1	0	0	0	0	0
Romford non SDVC	0	0	1	0	0	0
Willesden non SDVC	0	0	1	0	0	0
Barnet/Hendon	1	0	0	1	1	0
Brent	1	1	0	0	0	0
Croydon	1	1	0	0	0	0
Ealing	0	0	0	1	1	1
Greenwich—non SDVC	1	0	0	0	0	0
Haringey (Tottenham)	0	1	1	1	0	0
Harrow—non SDVC	1	0	1	1	0	0
Havering—non SDVC	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon	1	0	1	1	0	0
Hounslow	0	0	1	1	1	0
Islington non SDVC	1	0	0	0	0	0
Merton—non SDVC	0	1	0	0	0	0
Stratford (Newham)	0	0	1	1	1	0
Sutton—non SDVC	0	1	0	0	0	0
Thames (Tower Hamlets/Hackney)	0	1	1	1	0	0

Table 1: Ministry of Justice IDVA funding

Specialist domestic violence court area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
West London	2	2	0	0	0	0
Westminster—non SDVC	0	1	0	0	0	0
Barry, Vale of Glamorgan	1	1	1	0	0	0
Bridgend	1	1	0	0	0	0
Caerphilly	2	2	2	0	0	0
Cardiff	1	1	1	0	0	0
Gwent (Monm'thshire CPS and Cwmbran	1	1	0	0	0	0
Gwent (Newport CSP)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Gwent (Torfaen CSP)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Llandudno/Prestatyn (Conwy/Denbighshire) non SDVC	1	1	1	0	0	0
Llanelli	1	1	1	0	0	0
Merthyr Tydfil	1	1	1	0	0	0
Mold, Flinthsire	0	1	1	1	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	1	1	0	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire-Haverfordwest	1	1	0	0	0	0
Rhondda Cynon Taff	1	1	0	0	0	0
Swansea	1	1	0	0	0	0
Wrexham	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total	124	131	102	42	30	10

Table 2: Victim and Witness General Fund 2011-12 to 2013-14

Area	*Number of court based IDVA*
Northumbria	1
London	3
Nottinghamshire	1
Cleveland	1
Nottinghamshire	2
Sussex	1
Bradford	3
North Wales	1
Surrey/Sussex	1
Hampshire	1
West Midlands	2
Kent	1
Metropolitan police	1
Devon and Cornwall	3
Derbyshire	1
Hampshire	1
Staffordshire	1
London	1
Norfolk	1
Sussex	1
Dorset, Avon and Somerset	2
West Midlands	1
Avon and Somerset	1
Gloucestershire	1
South Wales	1
Kent	1
North Wales	1
London	1
Nottinghamshire	1
Staffordshire	1
Devon and Cornwall	1
South Wales Police (Central covering Vale and Bridgend)	1
Suffolk	3
Total	44

Table 3: Home Office ISVA funding

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12 to 2014-15*
North West	6	6	8	7	4	12
North East	2	2	2	3	3	6
East of England	1	1	1	2	2	9
West Midlands	6	6	7	7	10	12
South East	1	1	2	2	5	9
East Midlands	2	2	2	4	3	8
South West	2	2	3	4	5	7
London	6	6	5	6	6	8
Yorkshire and Humber	5	5	4	6	6	8
Wales	3	3	3	2	0	8
Total	34	34	37	43	44	87

Land Registry

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to conclude his assessment of the findings of the Land Registry Feasibility Study; and what plans he has to discuss the findings of the study with representatives of the trade unions recognised by the Land Registry before any announcement of the findings to the House. [57332]

Mr Djanogly: Given the important role that the Land Registry plays in maintaining the public's confidence in the property marked it is right and proper that we give thorough and careful consideration to the findings of the feasibility study before making any decisions or announcements about its future direction. As part of those deliberations, we need to understand better the potential impact of the Cabinet Office's proposal to develop a PDC on the options being considered under the feasibility study.

If the preferred option is for a materially different ownership structure for the Land Registry, then a full public consultation will be conducted

The Minister of State, my noble Friend Lord McNally, has agreed to meet with staff representatives of the Land Registry once consideration of the feasibility study has concluded, and before any public announcement has been made. A date has not been set for those meetings or for any announcement about the future of the Land Registry.

Magistrates Courts

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse is of preparing a *(a)* full pre-sentence report and *(b)* fast delivery report in magistrates courts, including time spent by probation staff in court whilst the report is being delivered and considered. [57029]

Mr Blunt: Full information about these costs is not yet available. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is currently developing systems to report expenditure on a service by service basis. This information will be made published in the autumn through the Government's Transparency Agenda.

The available information, which has been placed in the Libraries of the House, estimates the average cost of preparing a "full pre-sentence report", known as a Standard Delivery Report, to be £277. The estimated average cost preparing a Fast Delivery Report is £46. These estimates do not cover the time spent by probation staff in court while the report is being delivered and considered in court. Information on the cost of time spent by probation staff in court will be captured in the service specification for Court Work other than Assessment and Reports, to be published by December 2011. The estimates provided cover only direct running costs and do not include indirect costs.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration his Department has given to the deployment of judicial resources across magistrates courts in England and Wales following the outcome of the research it commissioned on variations in the approaches of magistrates and district judges in dealing with criminal cases. [57030]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice has commissioned Ipsos MORI to conduct research into the strengths and skills of the judiciary. This is due to be published later this year. The findings will help strengthen the evidence base to inform decisions around how best magistrates and district judges are deployed across magistrates courts in England and Wales.

Parenting Orders

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many parenting orders have been issued to *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each year since their inception. [56785]

Mr Blunt: Parenting orders were piloted between 30 September 1998 and 31 March 2000 and commenced in England and Wales in June 2000.

8,649 parenting orders attached to a child's criminal conviction were awarded between 1999 and 2009. Of these, 5,431 were awarded to men and 3,182 to women. There are no records of parenting orders being issued in 1998. The full breakdown by year is provided in table 1. Parenting orders attached to an ASBO have also been awarded since 2004 (table 2) however these data are not available broken down by gender.

The Department for Education has collected data from local authorities in England on parenting orders since September 2004. The number of parenting orders granted following successful truancy prosecutions between September 2004 and August 2010 is 2,829. One parenting order was granted in cases of exclusion or serious misbehaviour at school during this same period. We believe that usage of those orders is low as parenting orders for behaviour are a last resort measure, intended only for those few cases where parents are unwilling to engage with voluntary measures. The Department does not collect parenting orders data on a gender basis.

Number of people issued with a parenting order following a criminal conviction, by sex, England

Number

Sex	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]	*2009*
Males	10	266	418	490	375	474	522	628	712	816	720
Females	9	101	222	301	296	277	337	388	432	440	379
Persons[2]	19	367	640	791	671	751	859	1,016	1,146	1,270	1,119

[1] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[2] The gender of a defendant proceeded against may not have been reported. These data have been included in the persons Therefore, males and females age group totals and sub-totals may not agree with the totals given under persons.

Notes: 1.

The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they have were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

3. Parenting orders, made available under the Crime and Disorder act 1998, were implemented nationally in 2000.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Parenting orders[1] made as a result of an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) being issued to a juvenile (aged 10 to 17) on application, at all magistrates and county courts in England and Wales, as reported to the Ministry of Justice[2], from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2009, England and Wales

		Number
Period	*Parenting orders*	*ASBOs issued to persons aged 10 to 17*
June to December 2000	—	62
2001	—	193
2002	—	250
2003	—	393
2004	9	599
2005	15	638
2006	18	423
2007	25	453
2008	10	339
2009	18	272
Total	95	3,622

[1] While parenting orders (POs), made available under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, were implemented nationally from 1 June 2000 the Anti-social Behaviour Act (November 2003) extended requirements that a court making an ASBO against a person under the age of 16 should issue a PO against the parents of that child if it is satisfied that the PO would be desirable in the interests of preventing repetition of the behaviour which led to the ASBO (if not satisfied it should be stated in open court as to why not).

[2] Prior to the creation of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007, numbers of ASBOs issued were reported to Home Office by the Court Service.

Notes:

1. Available data for the period 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 are only for the total number (104) of ASBOs issued.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Prisons

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours on average each day offenders were held in their cell in each establishment in each year since 2007 for which figures are available. [56790]

Mr Blunt: As a measure of safety and decency in prisons, the National Offender Management Service collects data on the average hours per weekday that prisoners are unlocked. By subtracting the average hours unlocked from the 24 hours in a day it is possible to estimate hours spent locked in cell. It should be noted that the latter will include hours when prisoners are asleep.

Figures for time unlocked and time locked in cell are set out in the table for each prison establishment in England and Wales for the financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

The figures used in the answer have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

	Average time unlocked: hours per prisoner per day			*Estimated average time locked in cell: hours per prisoner per day*		
Prison	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Acklington	10.6	7.9	8.3	13.4	16.1	15.7
Albany	9.9	10.1	9.2	14.1	13.9	14.8
Altcourse	13.1	12.9	12.1	10.9	11.1	11.9
Ashfield	10.1	9.6	10.1	13.9	14.4	13.9
Ashwell	15.5	15.1	10.0	8.5	8.9	14.0
Askham Grange	16.0	16.0	16.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Aylesbury	8.2	7.0	7.2	15.8	17.0	16.8
Bedford	8.6	8.7	9.3	15.4	15.3	14.7
Belmarsh	8.4	7.7	7.8	15.6	16.3	16.2
Birmingham	9.3	6.7	6.8	14.7	17.3	17.2
Blakenhurst	9.8	—	—	14.2	—	—
Blantyre House	18.0	18.0	18.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Blundeston	10.1	10.5	11.7	13.9	13.5	12.3
Brinsford	8.6	8.5	8.5	15.4	15.5	15.5
Bristol	8.4	8.0	8.9	15.6	16.0	15.1
Brixton	7.1	6.7	6.3	16.9	17.3	17.7
Brockhill	10.5	—	—	13.5	—	—
Bronzefield	11.5	10.5	9.6	12.5	13.5	14.4
Buckley Hall	12.8	9.1	8.5	11.2	14.9	15.5
Bullingdon	7.9	8.4	8.2	16.1	15.6	15.8
Bullwood Hall	13.1	13.4	13.8	10.9	10.6	10.2
Camp Hill	9.6	9.3	9.3	14.4	14.7	14.7
Canterbury	9.2	11.2	10.2	14.8	12.8	13.8
Cardiff	8.1	8.1	8.1	15.9	15.9	15.9
Castington	8.6	8.6	8.0	15.4	15.4	16.0
Channings Wood	9.2	9.4	8.9	14.8	14.6	15.1
Chelmsford	8.1	7.6	8.2	15.9	16.4	15.8
Coldingley	10.5	9.7	9.1	13.5	14.3	14.9
Cookham Wood	8.2	14.8	10.8	15.8	9.2	13.2
Dartmoor	10.1	13.3	11.1	13.9	10.7	12.9
Deerbolt	6.9	7.0	6.5	17.1	17.0	17.5
Doncaster	11.1	10.3	9.5	12.9	13.7	14.5
Dorchester	7.0	7.6	5.6	17.0	16.4	18.4
Dovegate	10.9	10.0	9.5	13.1	14.0	14.5
Dover	12.3	12.1	12.5	11.7	11.9	11.5
Downview	11.1	8.6	9.3	12.9	15.4	14.7
Drake Hall	16.4	17.7	18.6	7.6	6.3	5.4
Durham	8.5	7.6	7.2	15.5	16.4	16.8
East Sutton Park	17.0	17.0	17.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Eastwood Park	11.6	12.6	12.4	12.4	11.4	11.6
Edmunds Hill	13.4	13.6	13.2	10.6	10.4	10.8
Elmley	7.4	8.6	7.9	16.6	15.4	16.1
Erlestoke	11.1	9.4	9.4	12.9	14.6	14.6
Everthorpe	8.9	8.0	7.9	15.1	16.0	16.1
Exeter	8.0	9.2	9.3	16.0	14.8	14.7
Featherstone	10.3	10.7	10.9	13.7	13.3	13.1
Feltham	10.0	9.3	8.7	14.0	14.7	15.3
Ford	12.6	12.3	12.3	11.4	11.8	11.7
Forest Bank	10.5	10.5	10.5	13.5	13.5	13.5
Foston Hall	10.3	11.4	10.8	13.7	12.6	13.2
Frankland	9.3	8.1	8.9	14.8	15.9	15.1
Full Sutton	9.5	8.9	8.8	14.5	15.1	15.2
Garth	10.0	9.1	8.7	14.0	14.9	15.3
Gartree	10.0	8.4	8.6	14.0	15.6	15.4
Glen Parva	10.3	8.3	7.4	13.7	15.7	16.6
Gloucester	8.6	8.4	8.5	15.4	15.6	15.5
Grendon	13.5	14.1	13.8	10.5	9.9	10.2
Guys Marsh	10.2	10.9	10.4	13.8	13.1	13.6
Haslar	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Haverigg	11.2	10.6	14.4	12.8	13.4	9.6
Hewell	—	11.3	10.8	—	12.7	13.2

	Average time unlocked: hours per prisoner per day			*Estimated average time locked in cell: hours per prisoner per day*		
Prison	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Hewell Grange	24.0	—	—	0.0	—	—
High Down	6.4	7.7	7.5	17.6	16.3	16.5
Highpoint	10.5	10.5	10.0	13.5	13.5	14.0
Hindley	9.5	9.2	9.2	14.5	14.8	14.8
Hollesley Bay	16.0	16.0	16.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Holloway	9.5	10.2	9.4	14.5	13.8	14.6
Holme House	7.4	7.2	7.2	16.6	16.8	16.8
Hull	9.3	9.0	8.6	14.7	15.0	15.4
Huntercombe	8.6	8.4	9.9	15.4	15.6	14.1
Kennet	9.8	8.6	9.9	14.2	15.4	14.1
Kingston	10.8	10.0	9.7	13.3	14.0	14.3
Kirkham	13.8	14.2	14.7	10.2	9.8	9.3
Kirklevington	19.0	19.0	19.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Lancaster	10.1	8.4	9.0	13.9	15.6	15.0
Lancaster Farms	10.2	7.4	7.4	13.8	16.6	16.6
Latchmere House	19.5	19.2	19.0	4.5	4.8	5.0
Leeds	9.1	7.4	7.1	14.9	16.6	16.9
Leicester	10.0	6.5	6.6	14.0	17.5	17.4
Lewes	7.0	6.8	7.7	17.0	17.2	16.3
Leyhill	16.0	16.0	16.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Lincoln	9.7	7.0	7.3	14.3	17.0	16.7
Lindholme	10.5	9.0	8.8	13.5	15.0	15.2
Littlehey	10.2	8.5	8.7	13.8	15.5	15.3
Liverpool	7.6	7.6	7.7	16.4	16.4	16.3
Long Lartin	9.2	8.2	10.1	14.8	15.8	13.9
Low Newton	10.6	9.3	10.1	13.4	14.7	13.9
Lowdham Grange	12.6	12.0	11.4	11.4	12.0	12.6
Maidstone	9.3	9.5	9.1	14.7	14.5	14.9
Manchester	10.0	10.3	10.0	14.0	13.7	14.0
Moorland	12.8	11.2	10.6	11.2	12.8	13.4
Morton Hall	15.0	13.8	13.5	9.0	10.2	10.5
Mount	10.8	10.8	10.8	13.2	13.2	13.2
New Hall	10.2	9.9	9.5	13.8	14.1	14.5
North Sea Camp	15.5	15.5	16.8	8.5	8.5	7.3
Northallerton	9.0	7.8	7.5	15.0	16.2	16.5
Norwich	10.1	8.2	7.6	13.9	15.8	16.4
Nottingham	8.1	7.0	7.1	15.9	17.0	16.9
Onley	8.6	8.7	8.5	15.4	15.3	15.5
Parc	9.9	9.3	9.2	14.1	14.7	14.8
Parkhurst	8.0	8.2	7.6	16.0	15.8	16.4
Pentonville	6.3	6.8	7.3	17.7	17.2	16.7
Peterborough	—	—	10.0	—	—	14.0
Portland	8.6	8.0	8.6	15.4	16.0	15.4
Preston	9.8	6.6	7.9	14.2	17.4	16.1
Ranby	10.9	8.9	9.6	13.1	15.1	14.4
Reading	8.2	8.6	7.5	15.8	15.4	16.5
Risley	10.5	9.1	8.5	13.5	14.9	15.5
Rochester	9.0	8.6	8.9	15.0	15.4	15.1
Rye Hill	11.4	11.1	10.6	12.6	12.9	13.4
Send	12.7	11.3	11.2	11.3	12.7	12.8
Shepton Mallet	10.2	9.4	9.4	13.8	14.6	14.6
Shrewsbury	9.6	7.2	8.3	14.4	16.8	15.7
Stafford	10.6	7.7	7.4	13.4	16.3	16.6
Standford Hill	16.5	13.5	13.5	7.5	10.5	10.5
Stocken	10.8	7.7	7.7	13.2	16.3	16.3
Stoke Heath	8.4	8.6	8.2	15.6	15.4	15.8
Styal	15.8	12.3	11.6	8.2	11.7	12.4
Sudbury	19.0	19.0	19.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Swaleside	7.8	8.1	8.3	16.2	15.9	15.7
Swansea	9.0	9.5	8.3	15.0	14.5	15.7
Swinfen Hall	10.4	7.8	7.9	13.6	16.2	16.1
Thorn Cross	12.5	12.5	14.1	11.5	11.5	9.9
Usk/ Prescoed	13.9	11.7	11.9	10.1	12.3	12.1
Verne	16.0	15.0	15.0	8.0	9.0	9.0
Wakefield	9.1	8.9	9.0	14.9	15.1	15.0
Wandsworth	7.5	8.1	7.3	16.5	15.9	16.7
Warren Hill	10.6	10.0	10.3	13.4	14.0	13.7
Wayland	11.3	11.0	11.5	12.7	13.0	12.5
Wealstun	11.5	8.2	8.3	12.5	15.8	15.7
Wellingborough	10.0	8.9	8.6	14.0	15.1	15.4
Werrington	10.3	10.3	10.5	13.7	13.7	13.5
Wetherby	10.4	10.8	10.4	13.6	13.2	13.6
Whatton	10.4	10.0	9.9	13.6	14.0	14.1
Whitemoor	8.3	7.8	7.9	15.7	16.2	16.1
Winchester	9.1	8.7	9.4	14.9	15.3	14.6
Wolds	12.3	11.5	9.4	11.7	12.5	14.6
Woodhill	9.0	10.6	9.3	15.0	13.4	14.7
Wormwood Scrubs	8.9	8.2	7.9	15.1	15.8	16.1
Wymott	10.6	8.8	8.6	13.4	15.2	15.4

Notes:

1. Blakenhurst, Brockhill and Hewell Grange merged in 2008-09 becoming Hewell.
2. Data for Peterborough for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are unavailable.
3. Hours locked in cell have been estimated from the recorded figure of average daily hours unlocked from cell.

Data Sources and Quality:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing returns but the detail is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. Although shown to one decimal place they may not be accurate to that level.

Wills: Regulation

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Law Society on changes to the system of regulation of the production of wills; [57156]

(2) whether he has any plans to change the regulation of the production of wills. [57157]

Mr Djanogly: I am aware that the Law Society supports making will writing a reserved legal activity and note with interest the research it has conducted. I hope and expect the Law Society will work closely with the Legal Services Board throughout the investigations into potential regulation of this activity that the oversight regulator is currently undertaking.

I have no plans to regulate will writers at present. However, The Legal Services Act 2007 (LSA) contains provisions which allow the Legal Services Board to recommend to me that a legal service such as will writing becomes a reserved legal activity, which would then be regulated.

Since the Legal Services Board is currently investigating whether or not it would be in the interests of the legal consumer to regulate will writing, it is more appropriate for me to await the outcome of that investigation before making an assessment of next steps.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Internet

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, if the House of Commons Commission will make available on the parliamentary *(a)* intranet and *(b)* website copies of the House of Commons Sessional Returns for sessions 1964-65 to 1996-97; and if he will make a statement. [56608]

John Thurso: There are no current plans to publish House of Commons Sessional Returns for Sessions 1964-65 to 1996-97 on either the parliamentary website or the intranet.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of undertaking a cross-Government review of policy on the sustainable biodiesel industry; and if he will make a statement. [57203]

Norman Baker: I have initiated a cross-departmental process to examine biofuel policy. In addition, work is under way across Whitehall to develop a UK Government strategy for sustainable bio-energy to meet GHG emissions targets, renewable energy and energy security goals cost-effectively. This work includes assessing feedstock supply for the biodiesel industry and other sectors.

Biofuels: Aviation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on measures to incentivise the uptake of sustainable biofuels in aviation. [57353]

Norman Baker: The Government believe that sustainable biofuels have a role to play in reducing CO_2 emissions from transport, particularly in sectors such as aviation where there are for the foreseeable future limited alternatives to fossil fuel. The Government are working with our European partners, the wider international community and industry to explore how to bring about a significant increase in the use of sustainable biofuels in aviation.

Crossrail: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many Crossrail carriages will be delivered in each year between 2010-11 and 2014-15; and how many full train length equivalent diagrams will be completed in each of those years; [46328]

(2) how many carriages are planned to be built for Crossrail in each year between 2010-11 and 2014-15; and what the projected costs are of such construction in each of those years; [46329]

(3) how many Intercity Express programme carriages will be delivered in each year between 2010-11 and 2014-15; and how many full train length equivalent diagrams will be completed in each year; [46330]

(4) how many Intercity Express programme carriages will be built in each year between 2010-11 and 2014-15; and what the cost of such construction will be in each such year; [46331]

(5) how many rail carriages will be built during the comprehensive spending review period for *(a)* Crossrail, *(b)* Thameslink, *(c)* the Intercity Express programme and *(d)* other services; and which train operating companies will receive those carriages provided for other services; [46339]

(6) how many carriages will be built for the Thameslink project in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and what the cost to his Department of such construction will be in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15; [46340]

(7) how many Thameslink carriages will be delivered in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and how many full train length equivalent diagrams will be completed in each such year. [46341]

Mrs Villiers: The information is as follows:

Crossrail

In total around 600 new carriages will be provided for the Crossrail project with a requirement for approximately 57 diagrams, subject to finalisation of operational requirements. Notice of this procurement was published by Crossrail Ltd in the Official Journal of the European Union on 1 December 2010, and the invitation to tender for Crossrail rolling stock is planned to be published later in 2011. The delivery profile and costs of the rolling stock is commercially confidential and subject to negotiation with bidders and so it is not possible to give annual numbers (if any) of built and delivered units and their associated costs within the spending review period.

Thameslink

No trains will be built during the years 2010-11 to 2013-14. It is expected that 112 vehicles will be built during 2014-15 which will make 10 full train length equivalent diagrams. The Department for Transport is currently evaluating responses from two bidders to supply the rolling stock. The content of these bids is commercially confidential.

Intercity Express programme

If the bid goes ahead as currently planned, the Department for Transport proposes to specify the number of trains that operators will require in daily service from 2016. These would be paid for by train operators on a daily basis. I would expect trains to be ready for use prior to the date they are required for passenger service, in order to provide time for appropriate testing and acceptance on to the network.

Other Services

West Coast—106 vehicles will be built before the end of the spending review.

NXEA—120 vehicles will have been built by the end of the spending review.

London Midland—69 vehicles will be built before the end of the spending review.

Chiltern—eight vehicles will be built before the end of the spending review.

TPE—It is expected 36 vehicles will be built, subject to agreement on the value for money.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55746]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has one contract which allows a contractor to store personal data of UK citizens overseas. That contract is between the Driving Standards Agency and Pearson Driving Assessments Ltd. More than one million records of candidates for the theory test are held in the United States.

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the staff vacancy rate in his Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [51382]

Norman Baker: Vacancy rates are a factor of the turnover of staff, changing business needs and the time taken to fill vacancies. Given the limited usefulness of vacancy rates, relative to budgetary disciplines on programme and administrative spend, no rate has been assumed for Business Planning purposes for 2012 nor is it tracked by the Department.

The Department has had a recruitment freeze since May 2010 and has imposed strict controls to the process of filling vacancies externally. These are only considered for approval if they are deemed to be front line, safety or business critical, in line with Cabinet Office guidance.

Since May 2010 the number of full time equivalents in the Department has reduced by 7%.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52802]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport participated in the Cabinet Office Fast Stream Summer Diversity Internship programme offering six to nine week internships opportunities to graduates. We will be offering a minimum of three Summer Diversity Internships for undergraduates this summer.

These applicants are advised that they will have an opportunity to work at the heart of current affairs and key Government agendas, engage directly with the public, and help to provide high-quality services for people from diverse communities and backgrounds. They will also be leading, building relationships, innovating and making key decisions that will stretch them intellectually throughout the programme.

Individuals looking to undertake a work experience placement are invited to complete a pro forma to identify why they are interested in a placement at the Department for Transport and what skills they are looking to gain through the placement. Work experience placements are generally short-term placements, most commonly for half-term and other holidays for:

Year 10 students (15 to 16 years)
College students (17 to 19 years) and
Undergraduates

In addition to encouraging short-term placements, the Department has in the past taken a number of steps to develop and encourage youth employment using the Local Employment Partnership initiative from the previous administration. Individuals are invited to attend an induction event to gain an understanding of the work of the Department, and are also given a job description outlining their role and responsibilities and documentation setting out their terms and conditions.

The Department for Transport does not offer opportunities for people to work as volunteers in the Department.

Driving: Alcohol

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what evidence he *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated prior to his decision not to lower the level of alcohol in the blood at which driving impairment becomes an offence; and if he will make a statement. [53778]

Mike Penning: The Government's published response to the independent North review about drink and drug driving, particularly chapter two, outlines the considerations related to the decision not to change the prescribed alcohol limit for driving.

The response has been published on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/drivinglaws/govtresponse/

High Speed Two Railway Line

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons Rail Package 2 was not considered as the comparator to High Speed Two for the London to West Midlands phase. [55448]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* The Government's current consultation on high speed rail discusses strategic options for a national high speed rail network. To support the consultation, Atkins was commissioned to develop and review strategic alternatives to a national high speed rail network, which were published in its report of February 2011 entitled 'High Speed Rail Strategic Alternatives Study: Strategic Alternatives to the Proposed Y Network'.

In contrast, Atkins' Rail Package 2, which focused only on enhancements to the West Coast Main Line, was developed as a potential alternative to a London to West Midlands high speed rail line alone.

To satisfy the scope of the Government's current consultation, it is clearly necessary to compare strategic options for an entire network rather than its component parts. Rail Package 2 does not, on its own, comprise an alternative to an entire network. However, it has been included as a component within the broader scenarios set out in the more recent strategic alternatives study.

The following are document links, for reference:

Info on Rail Package 2

High Speed Two Strategic Alternatives Study: Strategic Outline Case, March 2010:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110131042819/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/alternativestudy/pdf/strategicoutline.pdf

London to West Midlands Rail Alternatives—Update of Economic Appraisal, March 2011:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/proposedroute/apprupdate/

Network Strategic Alternatives Scenarios

High Speed Rail Strategic Alternatives Study: Strategic Alternatives to the Proposed Y Network, February 2011:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/sites/highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/files/hsr-strategic-alternative.pdf

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with Hillingdon Outdoor Sailing Base on proposals to construct part of the High Speed Two network through their facility; and if he will make a statement. [55620]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* My officials have corresponded with the Principal of Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre, who wrote to me in January. I understand that HS2 Ltd have also had discussions and correspondence with representatives of the Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre.

I understand the concerns people have about the impact of the proposed route of any new high speed line on the Colne Valley area where the Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre is located. If a decision is taken to go ahead with a new high speed line, HS2 Ltd would carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment before any work began, and would consider mitigation where practical to minimise effects upon the ecology and water habitat and to maintain recreational amenity.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many representations he has received on proposals to build part of the High Speed Two network through Hillingdon Outdoor Sailing Base; and if he will make a statement. [55621]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* I have received two letters regarding the high speed rail proposals and the Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1211W, on roads: accidents, what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of uninsured drivers. [56787]

Mike Penning: The Government have introduced the continuous insurance enforcement scheme which will come into force in late June, which means that all vehicles must be covered by insurance unless they are declared off the road by a valid statutory off-road notification (SORN).

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the effect on car insurance premiums of use of a vehicle to undertake voluntary work. [57009]

Mike Penning: I have not received any recent representations. The cost of insurance for those who undertake voluntary work is occasionally raised with the Department.

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on resurfacing motorways in the last five years. [55328]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency does not separately record or report the cost of resurfacing motorways. However, the annual accounts for the HA over the past five years has reported the following in terms of expenditure on maintenance:

	£ million
2009-10	1,307
2008-09	914
2007-08	878
2006-07	850
2005-06	852

Expenditure figures have been adjusted to account for spend relating to roads trunked or detrunked in the financial year.

The expenditure figures provided are for maintenance on the strategic road network managed and maintained by the Highways Agency. This includes renewal of the road surface and repairs to structures, as well as routine maintenance such as gully clearing, white lining, cleaning and winter maintenance, but not those associated with our private finance initiative contracts.

To disaggregate the cost of resurfacing motorways only would be a very lengthy exercise, and as such could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Railways

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has for new non-high speed train lines in England. [55330]

Mrs Villiers: The existing rail network already links most sizeable areas of population and our plans focus on providing additional capacity to meeting rising demand. In some cases this involves adding new rolling stock and in others building additional lines may be appropriate.

The new Ordsall curve is planned to open in central Manchester in 2016 and the new Crossrail line running under central London is planned to open from 2018.

Railways: Snow and Ice

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will establish a system of accountability for the Department for Transport and the Office of Rail Regulation to hold *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* train operating companies to account on the implementation of contingency timetables during severe weather conditions. [56168]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 17 May 2011]:* Provisions contained in franchise agreements enable appropriate remedial action as required by the Department, in the event that the operator fails to fulfil its contractual requirements with regard to the operation of temporary or contingency timetables.

The Office of Rail Regulation monitors Network Rail's operational activities. If it considers that Network Rail is falling short of its Network Licence obligations, it may take appropriate enforcement action.

Road Traffic

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department plans to commence its development of measures to reduce road congestion caused by incidents. [56114]

Mike Penning: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 39-40WS.

Roads: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the delivery of his Department's investment programme for the strategic road network to *(a)* begin and *(b)* be completed. [56026]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport set out its plans for investment in the strategic road network for this spending review period in October 2010, in "Investment in Highways Transport Schemes":

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/strategic/highwaystransportschemes/

Eight major schemes are currently under construction and a timetable for construction for a further 14 schemes was announced in April 2011:

http://www.highways.gov.uk/news/pressrelease.aspx?pressreleaseid=419138

All the schemes prioritised for investment within this spending review are scheduled for completion by 2016-17, subject to successful completion of the necessary statutory processes, continuing value for money and affordability.

Roads: Safety

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to paragraph 5.9 of the Strategic Framework for Road Safety, 11 May 2011, what his target date is for finalising the additional requirements for type approving drugs-testing devices for use at the roadside. [57228]

Mike Penning: The responsibility for the type approval of drug screening devices rests with the Home Office and not the Department for Transport. We expect the Home Office to have a final specification for a roadside drug testing device available shortly.

Speed Limits

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the new police framework for speeding on the level of *(a)* fatal, *(b)* serious injury and *(c)* minor injury accidents; and if he will make a statement. [53779]

Mike Penning: I have not specifically assessed the effects on accidents of the Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) advice to police forces about the circumstances when education should be used as an alternative to prosecution for speeding.

However I endorse the use of education as an alternative to prosecution in a wider set of circumstances, on the basis of previous assessments of its effectiveness. This includes the findings of roads research report number 66 'Effective Interventions for Speeding Motorists' (March 2006), which considered the methods of re-educating speeding motorists and was published on the Department for Transport website, at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme2/

Speed Limits: Cameras

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department expects to publish the speed camera data it has collected from local authorities. [56024]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport is not collecting speed camera data from local authorities to publish the data itself.

I have previously announced that local authorities and the police will have to publish full information about speed cameras.

Officials have been working with local authority officials and the police, in order to advise me about the appropriate requirements for publication of this information. As set out in the DfT Business Plan, an updated version of which was published on 13 May, we expect to issue guidance to local authorities by the end of June.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 30W, on speed limits: cameras, whether the fixed gantry cameras are *(a)* switched off and *(b)* used for any enforcement purposes when no temporary speed limits are in force on the M1. [57198]

Mike Penning: The fixed gantry spot speed enforcement cameras for the M1 motorway between junctions 25 and 28 are still undergoing testing and commissioning and are not as yet operational. These cameras which enforce the variable mandatory speed limits displayed on gantries and will be fully operational this summer.

The Highways Agency has introduced safety cameras on the M1 between junctions 25 and 28 as part of the Controlled Motorway scheme to increase compliance when speed limits are varied from the national speed limit.

When no restrictions are in place normal motorway regulations and enforcement regimes will apply. The enforcement of speed limits, whether using the safety cameras provided as part of this controlled motorway scheme or traditional methods, is undertaken by the police, in this case Nottinghamshire police.

Thameslink Railway Line

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer to the then hon. Member for Bedford of 7 April 2010, *Official Report,* column 1364W, on the Thameslink railway line: rolling stock, what assessment he has made of the merits of building new train maintenance depots for Thameslink stations at different locations; and what his Department's policy is on the proposal to build a depot at Hornsey. [55726]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport undertook a detailed assessment which considered a range of criteria, such as land availability and operational constraints at a number of locations, when determining the most appropriate sites for the Thameslink depots.

The Department proposes to build one of the new depots at Hornsey, subject to securing the necessary planning approvals.

Tolls

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress his Department has made on developing the *(a)* scope and *(b)* objectives of a road user charging system. [56047]

Mike Penning: We are committed to introducing a new system of lorry road user charging which will ensure that all heavy goods vehicles over 12 tonnes, whether UK or foreign-registered, contribute to the cost of maintaining our roads. This will provide a fairer deal for UK operators. We are currently finalising the details of the proposed scheme and intend to consult later in the year.

The Government have ruled out the introduction of a wider national road user charging scheme during this Parliament, or any preparations for the introduction of such a scheme in the next Parliament.

Transport: Snow and Ice

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he last met the Independent Review Panel on Winter Resilience; and how many times he has met the Panel since December 2010. [56038]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 17 May 2011]:* The Secretary of State met the Winter Resilience Panel on 7 October 2010 in advance of the publication of the Final Report on 22 October. He also met with David Quarmby CBE, chair of the Panel, on 17 December in advance of the publication of his Audit on 21 December. The publication of these reports completed the terms of the Winter Panel's appointments and no further meetings have been held.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Ai Weiwei

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Prime Minister has made to his Chinese counterpart on the detention of Ai Weiwei; and if he will make a statement. [57226]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Prime Minister and other Government Ministers have raised our concerns about human rights issues including the detention of Ai Weiwei in contacts with their Chinese counterparts.

We will continue to monitor developments in Mr Ai's case closely and look for further opportunities to raise our concerns.

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Chinese Government on the detention of Ai Weiwei; and if he will make a statement. [57227]

Mr Jeremy Browne: On 4 April 2011 the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs made a public statement outlining our concerns about the detention of Ai Weiwei. His statement called on the Chinese Government to clarify Mr Ai's situation and expressed the hope that he would be released immediately. The Secretary of State and I also raised the case with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying when she visited London on 12 May 2011.

On 11 April 2011 my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister raised the case of Ai Weiwei and expressed his concern about other detained dissidents with the Shanghai Party Secretary and Politiburo Standing Committee member, Yu Zhengsheng. I wrote to the Chinese ambassador regarding Mr Ai's case and other human rights issues on 3 May 2011.

We will continue to monitor developments in Mr Ai's case closely and look for further opportunities to raise our concerns.

Antarctic Treaty

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the protection and continuation of the Antarctic treaty. [57223]

Alistair Burt: The UK is committed to the indefinite application of the Antarctic treaty and its protocol on environmental protection. This year's Antarctic treaty consultative meeting will be held in Buenos Aires from 20 June to 1 July and will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the treaty on 23 June. The UK will work with other treaty parties to use this opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the Antarctic treaty and the environmental protocol.

Central Africa: Armed Conflict

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the state of relations between regional armies in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and South Sudan; and what assessment he has made of the commercial interests of the military in those countries from operating in conflict afflicted areas. [56710]

Alistair Burt: We have no evidence of notable animosity or distrust between the armies of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), and South Sudan. CAR was not involved in the Congo wars, and South Sudan played only a limited role supporting the anti-Mobuto forces. All three countries face the joint threat of the Lord's Resistance Army and are discussing cooperative operational responses.

We are not aware of any particular commercial interests for the armies of South Sudan and CAR from operating in conflict afflicted areas. Individual elements of the Congolese army (FARDC) have been involved in commercial dealings in the conflict zones of eastern DRC including through informal taxation of the mining sector. We consider the demilitarisation of mining in the east of DRC as a key element of creating a sustainable peace in this volatile region and creating a platform for growth in the future. We are working closely with the World Bank and others to encourage the Government to move forward with comprehensive reforms of the mining sector.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure the effectiveness of measures by the African Union to co-ordinate a regional mission to prevent attacks on civilians in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and South Sudan by members of the Lord's Resistance Army. [56773]

Alistair Burt: The Government will continue to support all efforts to find a sustainable solution to the problems caused by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). We believe that an essential part of a solution will be to minimise and eradicate the threat that the LRA continues to pose to civilian populations throughout the region. As an active member of the International Working Group (IWG) on the LRA, and through our work with partners at the UN Security Council, we are working to better coordinate the international response.

The African Union (AU) is in close contact with the IWG and is co-ordinating with countries in the region and local UN Peacekeeping Operations to provide better protection for civilians who are at risk from the LRA. In particular, the AU is currently planning for a regional, AU-led strategy to combat the LRA, and will likely be seeking funding from the EU via their EU-Africa Peace Facility (EU-APF).

As a major contributor to the EU-APF, the UK will continue to encourage this dialogue between the AU, the EU and other members of the IWG and to urge partners to consider supporting appropriate proposals that will increase the effectiveness of the existing regional effort to pursue the remaining LRA units.

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each contract is. [56234]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office holds one contract with Crown Relocations. It is for the movement of heavy baggage to and from our network of over 260 overseas posts. This covers approximately 1,500 moves per year, 80% are from UK to post and back and 20% is the movement from post to post. The value is approximately £7 million per annum.

David Houtan Kian

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he is making on behalf of David Houtan Kian, sentenced to imprisonment in Iran as a result of his legal activities on behalf of Sakineh Ashtiani; and if he will raise the case with *(a)* his EU counterparts and *(b)* other international bodies. [56746]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has seen media reports to suggest that Mr Javid Houtan Kian has been sentenced to seven years in prison, with a further four year suspended sentence on charges of endangering Iran's national security and propaganda against the state. Reports also indicate the charge of espionage is still under consideration. We are working to verify this information with international partners, but if true, we completely condemn these sentences as it would appear Mr Kian has been targeted simply for defending his client to the best of his ability. The harassment he and his family have been subject to is entirely unacceptable and should cease. We raised our concerns about his case, and the ongoing case of Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiani, most recently on 18 May with the Iranian embassy in London.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56106]

Mr Lidington: Excluding when they accompanied the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on ministerial visits overseas, his special advisers have incurred no travel costs.

Accompanying my right hon. Friend on official ministerial visits overseas, a breakdown of travel costs for Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) special advisers since May 2010 is as follows:

(a) Government car—None

(b) Private hire car—£1,546.86

(c) Train (including Europe)—£3,394.49

(*d*) Bus—None

(*e*) Commercial aircraft £52,151.15

(*f*) Private aircraft—travel for my right hon. Friend and his team travelling on private aircraft is not costed on an individual basis, but for the group as a whole.

The total cost of FCO ministerial and private office travel (including special advisers) is published on a quarterly basis.

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54564]

Alistair Burt: Pension benefits for UK based Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff are provided through arrangements under the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme. Therefore the budget for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not include expenditure for paying pensions.

Details of the level of social security and other pension costs to the Department are published annually within our Resource Accounts which are available on the Department's website. Information on costs for the last financial year (2010-11) is expected to be available in June 2011.

The proportion of the Department's budget to be spent on employer contributions or UK staff in each of the next five years will be determined by whatever changes are agreed to the Principal Civil Service scheme following the recommendations in the Hutton review.

Egypt: Internet

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Egypt on the treatment of dissident bloggers. [56326]

Mr Hague: I visited Egypt on 1-2 May. In my meeting with the head of the Supreme Council of the armed forces, Field Marshal Tantawi, I raised our concern about the use of military courts to enforce the emergency law in proceedings against civilians. Field Marshal Tantawi assured me that work would be undertaken to repeal the emergency law.

Following the sentencing of the blogger Maikel Nabil Sanad, our ambassador in Cairo raised our concerns about Sanad's case, and the detentions of protesters and military trials, with the Egyptian Interior Minister on 14 April. The Minister gave his assurance that respect for human rights would be instituted throughout the Ministry of Interior.

Embassies: Buildings

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of damage to British embassy buildings in the countries of north Africa and the middle east attributable to uprisings since January 2011. [54482]

Mr Lidington: Significant damage to British embassy buildings as a result of the north Africa and middle east uprisings has been limited to Libya. The building housing the British ambassador's residence and the British embassy in Tripoli was attacked by a mob on 30 April 2011 and largely destroyed by fire. The residence building, an embassy amenity building and several staff houses were looted with many official and staff personal assets stolen.

The full extent of our losses is still being assessed. We are currently considering the options available to recover these losses.

Internet

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has undertaken to support human rights activists and others to access the internet in countries where such access is restricted. [56324]

Mr Hague: The UK is committed to supporting human rights defenders around the world. This includes support to those who are seeking to exercise their right to freedom of expression on the Internet. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and posts overseas work closely with EU partners and others on a range of initiatives tailored to specific local needs to support human rights defenders.

The UK is committed to supporting freedom of expression on the internet and will continue to encourage states that restrict access to online media to uphold their international human rights commitments. We will also continue to publicly support those who seek to exercise their right to freedom of expression, including through the use of new media.

Libya: Foreign Relations

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government is maintaining any contact with the Gadaffi Government in Libya. [57002]

Alistair Burt: We no longer maintain an Embassy in tripoli nor have direct contact with the Gaddafi Government there, but we continue to maintain limited operational contact with the Libyan embassy in London. We have used these links to make clear to the regime that it must comply in full with UN Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973, desist from further violence and withdraw military forces to barracks.

Libya: Oil

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures are in place to ensure that proceeds from the sale of oil in Libya are not used to support the Gaddafi Government. [56308]

Mr Hague: The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC), which has a virtual monopoly on exports and imports of crude oil and petroleum products from the regime-controlled parts of Libya, is subject to an asset freeze under UN Security Council Resolution 1973. These sanctions cover imports and exports of oil and petroleum products by the NOC and its subsidiaries, and any payments for such shipments.

Middle East: Demonstrations

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on recent Nakba Day protests. [57109]

Alistair Burt: Nakba day demonstrations took place in many countries across the middle east on the weekend of 13-15 May 2011. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs issued a statement on 15 May 2011 expressing his concerns and regret:

> "I am deeply concerned by the violence on Israel's borders today and saddened by the loss of life. I call on all parties to exercise restraint and ensure that civilian life is protected. These developments make clearer than ever that a lasting and comprehensive resolution to the conflicts in the region is urgently needed and will only be achieved through negotiation."

Palestinians: Borders

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Egyptian counterpart on the decision to open the Rafah border crossing to Gaza. [56334]

Mr Hague: Despite the expressed wish of the Egyptian Government to relax the border controls with Gaza, there has been no change to the operation of the Rafah border crossing since it was re-opened after the revolution. The Egyptian authorities continue to apply strictly the categories of those who are permitted to travel, including those requiring hospital treatment in Egypt, university students, residency holders and foreign passports holders.

During my visit to Egypt on 2 May, I asked the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Nabil al-Arabi, about Egypt's stated intention to relax the Rafah crossing controls in the context of concerns about security in Egypt. Mr al-Arabi explained that the Egyptian Government was committed to alleviating the suffering of people in Gaza and, in that context, intended to reopen fully the Rafah crossing as soon as was possible. However, the modalities of doing so were taking longer than they had originally expected.

Syria: Demonstrations

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of protests in *(a)* Syria and *(b)* Libya since March 2010; what discussions he has had at the UN in each case; what recent (i) discussions he has had with and (ii) representations he has received from the Arab League in each case; and if he will make a statement. [55247]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has briefed the House regularly on developments in Libya. There have been continuing discussion of the issue in the United Nations, including UN Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973. Throughout the crisis the Secretary of State maintained contact with the Arab League, including through personal discussions with the League's Secretary-General. On 12 March the Arab League became the first organisation to call for the establishment of a No-Fly Zone over Libya. It has continued to take an active role in international efforts and attended the London Conference on Libya on 29 March and is represented at the Contact Group on Libya, which met most recently on 5 May in Rome.

We are extremely concerned by ongoing violence and repression in Syria. We continue to see a violent response to protests following Friday prayers, leading to the deaths of many innocent people. President Assad should order his authorities to show restraint and to respond to the legitimate demands of his people with immediate and genuine reform, not with brutal repression. The UN Security Council discussed Syria on 27 April. There was broad condemnation of Syrian behaviour. We continue to explore our options in consultation with UN and EU partners. We have lobbied Arab League countries to encourage them to make statements condemning the repression and violence in Syria. We strongly urge the Syrian Government to allow international humanitarian organisations access to all parts of Syria, in particular the city of Deraa, in order to prevent further humanitarian suffering.

Uganda: Violence

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to President Museveni and the Government of Uganda on the recent use of force against protesters in that country. [57010]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham), has directly raised the UK's concerns over the Ugandan authorities' handling of the ongoing opposition protests with Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa. Our high commission in Kampala, along with other EU member state missions, has raised our concerns directly with President Museveni. Our high commission has also raised concerns with the Ugandan Prime Minister and inspector general of police.

The UK and its partners have urged the Ugandan authorities to respect their people's constitutionally guaranteed rights to peaceful exercise of the freedoms of speech and assembly, and that the police should respond proportionally to instances of unrest among demonstrators.

TREASURY

Banks: Pay

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effects on income inequality of bonuses paid to bankers. [57164]

Mr Hoban: Due to data limitations it is not possible to provide a robust estimate of the effects of bankers' bonuses on income inequality.

The Government have been clear that the banks must act responsibly in setting their bonuses and continues to take robust action to tackle unacceptable remuneration.

As a result of the Government's discussions, the total remuneration paid by the four largest UK banks to their UK-based staff was lower in 2010 than it was in 2009, and lower than it would have been otherwise. The Remuneration Committee Chair of each bank has written to the Financial Services Authority to confirm that this commitment has been met.

Climate Change: EU Action

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what agreements on climate finance were made at the Economic and Financial Affairs Council meeting on 17 May 2011. [57364]

Justine Greening: The EU Economic and Financial Affairs Council of 17 May 2011 adopted Council Conclusions on international climate finance.

The conclusions endorsed the EU' Fast Start finance report which confirms that the EU mobilised €2.34 billion of Fast Start finance in 2010. The conclusions concurred with the UN High Level Advisory Group on Climate. Finance (AGF) report that it will be challenging but feasible to meet the goal for developed countries to jointly mobilise $100 billion per year by 2020, and outlined elements that will be important to deliver this finance.

The full text of the conclusions can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ecofin/122061.pdf

Guardian's Allowance: Grandparents

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to extend the qualification criteria for guardian's allowance to include grandparents who become guardians of children who are not orphaned. [57256]

Justine Greening: The Government have no current plans to change the eligibility criteria for guardian's allowance. Where grandparents have the primary responsibility for bringing up their grandchildren, they are entitled to financial support, namely child benefit and child tax credit, on the same terms as a parent would be. Child benefit and child tax credit guarantee support for the first child of over £4,000 a year for grandparents on very low incomes.

Public Sector: Pensions

Jim McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what considerations he took into account when proposing the rate of increase in contributions for *(a)* the Local Government Pension Scheme and *(b)* the Judges' Pension Scheme. [56852]

Danny Alexander: The interim report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, chaired by Lord Hutton of Furness, found that the value of public service pensions been increasing following dramatic increase in life expectancy at retirement. Current pensioners are expected to spend over 40% of their adult lives in retirement, compared to 30% for pensioners in the 1950s. Most of these extra costs have fallen to employers and taxpayers.

Spending review 2010 announced progressive changes to the level of employee contributions to public service pensions that lead to savings of £2.8 billion a year from the unfunded pension schemes by 2014-15, to be phased in from 2012-13, excluding the armed forces. This is equivalent to 3.2 percentage point increase on average.

No decisions have been taken on individual schemes—this is subject of discussions with trade unions and other work force representatives.

VAT: Channel Islands

Mr MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the effect on VAT revenues of the import of beauty products supplied to the UK from the Channel Islands in fulfilment of internet orders. [56924]

Mr Gauke: The Government have received representations from this trade sector, along with other trade sectors in the UK who are impacted by shipments from the Channel Islands benefiting from the low value consignment relief (LVCR).

Mr MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Channel Islands authorities on the revenue foregone by the Exchequer on taxation on beauty products ordered from the Channel Islands over the internet. [56926]

Mr Gauke: Following the announcement in the March Budget of the Government's intention to reduce the value threshold, my officials have been in further contact with the authorities in Jersey and Guernsey concerning the impact and operation of low value consignment relief.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around his Department's premises; and how much such cameras *(a)* cost to install and *(b)* cost to operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56841]

Chris Grayling: The Department has a contract for the provision of fully fitted and serviced accommodation for which it pays an all inclusive unitary charge. The scope of the services includes the provision of accommodation and services in over 900 buildings including security and associated equipment

CCTV is deployed following a security risk assessment and has been installed at 767 sites across the Department's estate. The number of cameras at each site varies according to the assessment, but the exact number of cameras can be determined only at disproportionate cost.

The cost of installing and operating CCTV is included in the unitary charge and can be disaggregated only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55731]

Chris Grayling: All relevant departmental contracts are explicit that suppliers and partners may not transfer or store data overseas without specific agreement from the Department.

A formal and rigorous approval route, fully consistent with provisions of Cabinet Office instructions and Data Protection Act requirements is operated by DWP in the evaluation of any off shoring proposals made to the Department. This includes, and references, relevant EEA and Safe Harbor regulations.

Some business data are stored outside of the UK. Information required from Government Procurement Card (GPC) holders is mainly business information with very limited personal data. This is stored in the UK and USA dictated by processing arrangements. In the case of DWP, this relates to 3,396 GPC users.

The DWP TNT (Courier) contractual arrangement includes a small number of international courier accounts for the International Pension Centre—that require a track and trace service from dispatch through to the customer's address overseas. TNT systems will only record the customer name and delivery addresses and in some circumstances a contact telephone number. This information is held by receiving depots overseas for a period of six months. All international couriers use name and address detail for service delivery.

Due to the nature of the service used, any data stored are solely dependent on service users and therefore it is not possible to confirm in which countries the data for each such consignment are held. TNT has confirmed that currently 308 customer names and addresses are held.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his timetable is for changes to the mobility component of disability living allowance for those living in care homes. [43700]

Maria Miller: Officials in the Department for Work and Pensions are reviewing existing evidence and gathering more to determine the extent to which there are overlaps in provision for mobility needs of people in residential care homes. Our aim is to reduce overlaps in public spending not disabled people's ability to get out and about. When the work is complete we will make a final decision on the way forward.

Any changes to the mobility component for people living in care homes will be made as part of the wider reform of disability living allowance and its replacement with personal independence payment in 2013.

Employment Schemes: Older Workers

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to assist older jobseekers in finding employment. [57110]

Chris Grayling: We have given Jobcentre staff more flexibility to help customers of all ages find and keep jobs. We are rolling out a number of new measures aimed at getting Britain working, including work clubs to help jobseekers share skills or experiences and the new enterprise allowance to assist those considering self-employment. Jobcentre staff will discuss possible options with older jobseekers. From this summer, the Work programme will provide personalised support for people who are unemployed for longer or who need early intensive support.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to assist older people in employment who wish to change careers. [57111]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus has job vacancy services which are freely available for people of all ages to use, including those who are already in employment. Any employed person who contacts Jobcentre Plus for advice about a career change will be advised about the job vacancy service. They will also be signposted to the Next Step service, which is a free, impartial and confidential government-funded service for adults in England who are looking for advice about careers, skills and work choices. Careers Scotland and Careers Wales provides similar support for people in those countries. These services are available to employed and unemployed people of all ages.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance and communications tool kit for local authorities on the promotion of early intervention and the provision of assistance to existing customers referred to in the local Housing Impact Assessment published in December 2010. [40572]

Steve Webb: As part of our work with local authorities on communications, we have provided a number of products including model letters to landlords and existing customers, an implementation tasksheet, and model leaflets. These products can be branded in a way local authorities choose. We have also issued a specific DWP branded leaflet and poster. Before April 2011, we revised the Local Housing Allowance guidance manual and the Discretionary Housing Payments guide. These products will be placed in the library and they are available on the DWP website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local%2Dauthority%2Dstaff/housing%2Dbenefit/

During March and April 2011, we held a series of four conferences in England, Scotland and Wales for housing benefit managers, to help communicate the local housing allowance changes effectively. Over the next few months, we will be providing further support and guidance including a series of visits by officials to local authorities to identify any issues and promote best practice.

The Government will continue to work closely with the 380 local authorities to ensure that the full range of options for customers facing a shortfall in their rent as a consequence of the housing benefit reforms is publicised, and that people are encouraged to consider all available options in good time.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to issue a consultation paper on the payment of housing costs for people living in supported and sheltered housing classified as exempt accommodation. [52751]

Steve Webb: We expect to publish the consultation this spring.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on housing benefit in each year since 2009-10; and what proportion of the budget for welfare services, excluding pensions, was spent on housing benefit in each year since 1997. [53499]

Steve Webb: The information is in the following table.

Housing benefit expenditure as a share of total benefit expenditure, 1997-98 to 2009-10

£ million

	Housing benefit	*Total benefit expenditure excluding state pension*	*Housing benefit proportion (percentage)*
1997-98	11,176.4	59,756.4	18.7
1998-99	11,064.8	59,950.9	18.5
1999-2000	11,064.1	61,235.6	18.1
2000-01	11,162.3	62,616.7	17.8
2001-02	11,588.7	64,770.0	17.9
2002-03	12,636.3	65,920.6	19.2
2003-04	12,341.5	59,253.5	20.8
2004-05	13,157.6	62,269.2	21.1
2005-06	13,928.2	64,328.7	21.7
2006-07	14,840.5	65,513.9	22.7
2007-08	15,731.8	68,301.0	23.0
2008-09	17,103.4	73,776.4	23.2
2009-10	19,989.2	80,674.9	24.8

Notes:

1. Outturn information for 2010-11 is not yet available.
2. Housing benefit expenditure as a proportion of total benefit expenditure excluding state pension jumps significantly in 2003-04 as total benefit expenditure reduces with the transfer of child benefit to HM Revenue and Customs.
3. Benefit expenditure tables are published on the internet at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

Source:

DWP statistical and accounting data

Industrial Health and Safety

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of the Health and Safety Commission on the Health and Safety Executive's Incident Selection Criteria Guidance section 5.0; and if he will make a statement. [56300]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety Executive's incident selection criteria are designed so that serious incidents are considered for possible investigation thereby making effective use of investigation resource. Any decision to investigate a specific incident is an operational decision.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the ratio of unemployed people to Jobcentre Plus staff *(a)* on the most recent date for which figures are available and *(b)* in May 2012. [57194]

Chris Grayling: As at December 2010, the latest point for which staffing levels have been published, there was a ratio of 19 claimant unemployed people for each member of total Jobcentre Plus staffing. However we are unable to provide a ratio of unemployed people to Jobcentre Plus staff for May 2012, as this information is currently not available in the format requested. The spending review 2010 announced that DWP would deliver 26% savings in real terms from its core budget over the four year period to 2015. Jobcentre Plus will contribute to these savings by driving up efficiency in the way it works through more use of its online services and implementing ideas that help improve processes and productivity.

Jobcentre Plus: Clydebank

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the closure of the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank on the provision of client services in that area. [56733]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assessment .has been made of the effects of the closure of the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank on the provision of client services in that area. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Clydebank Contact Centre is part of the virtual network within Jobcentre Plus' Contact Centre Directorate. Within this network, calls are directed to the next available advisor with the appropriate skills to answer customers' enquiries. This means that Clydebank Contact Centre deals with calls from all over the UK, rather than just the local area. Therefore, there should be no impact on client services within the area.

Clydebank currently handles calls for a number of different services, including new claims to Jobseekers Allowance, Income Support enquiries, services to employers who wish to notify vacancies including by e-mail and fax, and customers looking for work. All these services are also provided by other contact centres within the network.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of disposal of the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank; [56734]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated for investment in the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank in each of the last six years. [56738]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of disposal of the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank and how much funding his Department has allocated for investment in the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank in each of the last six years This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

DWP does not own its own estate. The Department signed a 20 year Private Finance Initiative contract with Telereal Trillium in 1998 for the provision of fully fitted and serviced accommodation for which the Department pays an all inclusive unitary charge. As such the closure of the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank will reduce the overall cost of the contract and any costs incurred in the disposal will be recouped within an approved period.

The contract with Telereal Trillium means that our estates partner is responsible for maintaining all of our sites to the required standard. There has been no other capital investment in the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank in the last six years.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support and guidance his Department is offering to staff at the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank following the decision to close the centre. [56735]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what support and guidance his Department is offering to staff at the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank following the decision to close the centre. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

DWP realises that the announcements which we made on 13th May regarding the closure of 22 benefit and contact centres will be unsettling to all staff. The line managers of staff at Clydebank Contact Centre will be available to support them, both now and throughout the next few months. Our immediate priority is to understand individual circumstances, and so we are currently arranging for each member of staff to have a one-to-one discussion with their line manager to discuss the closure and how it might affect them and to talk about their personal circumstances. Managers will also be there to answer or deal with any questions or concerns that they may have. Where the manager does not have the information to answer the question, we have introduced an issues escalation process. Managers in Clydebank contact centre are currently undertaking training to help them fulfil their role in supporting their teams through this challenging time.

In addition, staff who are union members may also want to speak to their Trade Union representative. We did arrange for a Trade Union representative to be on site on 13th May and to have time to talk to members of staff.

If staff would prefer to speak with someone from outside the Department, our Employee Assistance provider, Right Corecare, is available 24 hours a day. Our contract with Right Corecare provides unlimited, confidential access to their helplines on 0800 652 3304.

In addition, managers will have regular communications with staff and will keep them informed of any developments as they occur. We will also use the full range of our existing communications channels, including our intranet pages and events such as Your Call, which is a live audio conference event where people in Jobcentre Plus can speak directly to me and my Jobcentre Plus Board members to get answers to their questions.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans any compulsory redundancies in respect of staff at the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank. [56736]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether his Department plans any compulsory redundancies in respect of staff at the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

DWP will always take all possible steps, including redeploying people into other jobs, to avoid compulsory redundancy. This applies to Clydebank Contact Centre, which is due to close within the next 12 months. The Department has an excellent track record in securing alternative roles for its people and would not want to use public money for exits unless absolutely necessary. Our plans to enlarge some other sites, our robust workforce planning and workforce management arrangements will all help us towards avoiding a situation where compulsory redundancy is necessary in Clydebank Contact Centre or any Jobcentre Plus sites listed for closure. However, we cannot guarantee this.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff at the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank he expects to be redeployed to other locations. [56737]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff at the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank will be redeployed to other locations. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Our first consideration will be to redeploy as many staff as we can to other sites which are within the area. For example, near Clydebank, Jobcentre Plus also has contact centres in Paisley and Springburn. In addition, we have benefit centres in Glasgow and Clydebank, as well as a number of Jobcentres across the area.

The 128 permanent staff in Clydebank will all receive an offer of redeployment within Jobcentre Plus, either locally or further afield. Most will be within our usual mobility rules, but if those opportunities are further away we will help staff with travel costs. I cannot provide you with a firm estimate of the number of staff who will take up this offer of redeployment until we have had one to one discussions with every individual member of staff, to understand their personal circumstances.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many clients have been dealt with at the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank in each of the last five years. [56739]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many clients have been dealt with at the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Clydebank Contact Centre is part of the virtual network within Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre Directorate. Within this network, calls are directed to the next available advisor with the appropriate skills to answer customers' enquiries. This means that Clydebank Contact Centre deals with calls from all over the UK, rather than just the local area. Therefore, there should be no impact on client services within the area.

Clydebank Contact Centre made:

807,493 customer contacts in 2006/2007;

785,062 customer contacts in 2007/2008;

860,855 customer contacts in 2008/2009;

552,908 customer contacts in 2009/2010; and

519,866 customer contacts in 2010/2011.

The term 'customer contact' covers all customers and employers who contact us via the telephone, fax and online, and all outbound calls to customers.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed at the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank in each of the last six years. [56740]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff were employed at the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank in each of the last six years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Clydebank Contact Centre had a headcount of:

140 staff (126.37 whole time equivalent) in March 2007;

132 staff (119.34 whole time equivalent) in March 2008;

152 staff (141.12 whole time equivalent) in March 2009;

196 staff (181.41 whole time equivalent) in March 2010, and

133 staff (117.66 whole time equivalent) in March 2011.

We do not hold any data for March 2006. Our staffing data system only became available in March 2007. Prior to this date we are unable to analyse and interpret the data sufficiently to get accurate information.

Jobcentre Plus: Scotland

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to transfer services from Jobcentre Plus contact centres and benefit centres in Scotland to other areas of the UK. [56741]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what plans his Department has to transfer services from Jobcentre Plus Contact Centres and benefit centres in Scotland to other areas of the UK. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Clydebank Contact Centre is part of the virtual network within Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre Directorate. Within this network, calls are directed to the next available advisor with the appropriate skills to answer customers' enquiries. Therefore the transfer of services will occur via the virtual network.

Internally Jobcentre Plus is currently developing site by site plans for the movement of benefit work from the sites affected by our site rationalisation plans that were announced on 13th May. As yet, no decisions have been made on work movements, either within Scotland, or to other areas of the UK.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Work Experience

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to enable people who take up internships to claim jobseeker's allowance. [56416]

Chris Grayling: People undertaking an unpaid internship can already receive jobseeker's allowance as long as they can continue to meet the conditions of entitlement. The duration and content of the internship must be agreed between the customer, the employer and the Jobcentre Plus adviser before the start of the internship. People undertaking paid internships over 16 hours a week are not entitled to jobseeker's allowance.

In addition, under a new scheme that I announced in January, young people will also be allowed to undertake work experience for up to eight weeks while remaining on jobseeker's allowance, instead of the previous two. This gives young people the chance to get valuable experience in a business, which will make a real difference to their confidence, their employability and their prospects.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of recipients of disability living allowance who receive more support for mortgage interest support each year than the cost of their mortgage in the last year for which figures are available; and what the average monetary value was of such excess support. [56806]

Steve Webb: We do not have information on the contractual mortgage interest rates that apply to specific individuals or groups within the support for mortgage interest caseload, so cannot give the number of recipients of disability living allowance who receive more support for mortgage interest support each year than the cost of their mortgage.

There is no business need for the Department to collect information on claimants' contractual interest rates because we use a standard rate of interest to calculate support for mortgage interest.

National Insurance Contributions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the change in the level of national insurance payments made by *(a)* employers and *(b)* employees in respect of employees who are members of contracted-out pension schemes in each year to 2030 (i) under current proposals and (ii) under an accelerated timetable for achieving a flat-rate state second pension by 2020; [57272]

(2) if he will estimate the level of national insurance payments which will be foregone from *(a)* employer and *(b)* employee contributions through the contracting-out regime in each year to 2030 (i) under existing arrangements and (ii) under an accelerated timetable for achieving a flat-rate state second pension by 2020. [57273]

Steve Webb: The following table contains forecasts of the total value of the contracted-out rebate on *(a)* employer and *(b)* employee national insurance contributions paid on the earnings of contracted-out employees. Forecasts are presented under (i) the current arrangements, and (ii) an accelerated timetable for flat-rating the state second pension.

Forecasts are only available until 2015-16. The Office for Budget Responsibility will be publishing a report on long-term expenditure in July, which will be based on new long-term economic forecasts. Forecasts of the contracted-out rebate up to 2030-31 will then be available.

Under the accelerated timetable for flat-rating the state second pension, we assume that the upper accrual point is gradually reduced to the level of the low earnings threshold, beginning in 2013-14 and ending in 2020-21 with a completely flat-rate pension.

Forecasts are not available for total national insurance contributions paid on the earnings of contracted-out employees.

Figures are in £ billion in cash terms, and are for the UK.

Forecasts of the total value of the contracted-out rebate to 2015/16 under: (i) existing arrangements; and (ii) an accelerated timetable for flat-rating the state second pension—United Kingdom, £ billion cash terms

Contracted-out rebate, £ billion cash terms	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
(a) On employer contributions					
(i) under existing arrangements	6.4	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1
(ii) under accelerated flat-rating proposal	6.4	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.6
(b) On employee contributions					
(i) under existing arrangements	2.6	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7
(ii) under accelerated flat-rating proposal	2.6	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5

Notes:

1. Figures are presented in £ billions and are rounded to the nearest £0.1 billion.
2. Forecasts assume rebate rates for contracted-out defined benefit scheme members of 1.4% on employee contributions and 3.4 per cent on employer contributions from 2012-13 onwards. These are the rates that have been set by the Government for the period 2012-13 to 2016-17. See The Social Security (Reduced Rates of Class 1 Contributions, Rebates and Minimum Contributions) Order 2011, available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/1036/contents/made
3. Contracting out on a defined contribution basis is to be abolished from 2012-13 onwards.
4. Forecasts are based on Government Actuary's Department assumptions about future contracted-out defined benefit scheme membership.
5. Options for reform of the state pension system are put forward in: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2011/state-pension-21st-century.shtml

Source:

DWP, forecasts produced using the Government Actuary's Department's national insurance contribution forecasting model

New Enterprise Allowance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1291-2W, on enterprise zones, how many responses his Department has received from local entrepreneur mentors to his invitation to deliver the mentor support element of the new enterprise allowance. [56786]

Chris Grayling: The deadline for applications to help deliver the mentoring support element of the new enterprise allowance in Wales closed on 12 May. We are now in the process of assessing the applications received. Details of the successful applicants will be published on the new enterprise allowance page of the Department's website in due course.

New Enterprise Allowance: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has allocated to the establishment of the New Enterprise Allowance in Wales. [56724]

Chris Grayling: Funding for the new enterprise allowance in Wales, as elsewhere, will be dependent upon the numbers of customers who take-up the new enterprise allowance including those referred to the mentoring service, claiming the weekly allowance and successfully applying for the loan. There is not therefore a fixed proportion of money allocated to the operation of the NEA, but we would expect expenditure to be broadly in line with the proportion of eligible JSA claimants in Wales.

Pensioners: Benefits

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of paying means-tested benefits to pensioners in each year to 2030; and what the equivalent figures would be if the basic state pension were raised to £140 in 2011 and then uprated in line with current proposals each year. [57271]

Steve Webb: The following tables show estimates of expenditure on the pensioner means-tested benefits until 2015-16; the first table is in nominal terms, the second in 2011-12 prices. The Office for Budget Responsibility will be publishing a report on long-term expenditure in July, which will cover the period up to 2030.

Expenditure £ million nominal terms

	Estimate			*Forecast*		
	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
Pension credit	8,178	8,185	7,982	7,813	7,851	7,829
Housing benefit total over pension credit qualifying age	6,090	6,262	6,315	6,172	6,158	6,205
Council tax benefit total over pension credit qualifying age	2,334	2,273	2,260	[illegible]	1,982	1,971

Expenditure £ million nominal terms

	Estimate			*Forecast*		
	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
Total	16,602	16,720	16,558	15,990	15,992	16,004

Expenditure £ million real terms 2011-12 prices

	Estimate			*Forecast*		
	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
Pension credit	8,415	8,185	7,788	7,422	7,263	7,051
Housing benefit total over pension credit qualifying age	6,267	6,262	6,161	5,863	5,696	5,589
Council tax benefit total over pension credit qualifying age	2,402	2,273	2,205	1,904	1,833	1,775
Total	17,084	16,720	16,154	15,190	14,792	14,415

Source:
DWP and local authorities' statistical and accounting data

In relation to the second part of the question, the Government are currently consulting on proposals for state pension reform. The consultation document seeks views on the appropriate level of means-tested benefits for future pensioners.

Pensioners: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to protect the pension rights of UK citizens who have lived in, but not worked in, other EU countries. [56657]

Chris Grayling: An individual's entitlement to retirement pension is based on the national insurance contributions (NICs) they have paid throughout their working life. Recipients need to have paid a full contribution record ranging from 30 to 44 full years of NICs, depending on their gender and date of birth.

If a person has lived in another EU country, but not worked or contributed towards a state retirement pension they may not have built up any entitlement there. In addition, they may not have achieved a full contribution record for a UK retirement pension. However, the rights they have already acquired in the UK will be preserved, and in due course they are entitled to receive the proportion of the retirement pension they have accrued even if they are not resident in the UK. In those circumstances they can increase their UK contribution record, if they wish to do so, by purchasing additional years of contributions in order to receive the maximum state retirement pension.

Additional protection is available to some UK citizens who live abroad and who notify HMRC. If they are over 35-years-old and do not already have 30 qualifying contribution years, they will be issued with deficiency notices advising them that they can pay voluntary NICs to make the year a qualifying year. A comprehensive explanation about voluntary NICs, and the conditions attached to payment from abroad, is available on HMRC's website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/cnr/osc.htm

Poverty: Children

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the level of child poverty in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* London. [57355]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government Office Region and analysis by local authority (LA) is not possible. However, figures for London are set out in Table 1. The latest available Government Office Region data covers 2007/08 to 2009/10.

Table 1: Number and percentage of children living in relative poverty before housing costs (BHC) in London

	2007-08 to 2009-10
Number of children (million)	0.3
Percentage	20

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. Numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
5. These statistics are based on incomes before housing costs.
6. Relative poverty is defined as children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income.
7. These statistics are publicly available in the households below average income report on the DWP website:
http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai
Source:
Households below average income, DWP

Social Security Benefits

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households subject to the household benefit cap he expects will have *(a)* one and *(b)* more than one household member in work at the point at which the cap is introduced. [56486]

Chris Grayling: We have announced that when the benefit cap is introduced all households which include a member who is entitled to working tax credit will be exempt from its impact.

The estimated number of households affected by the introduction of the benefit cap where *(a)* one and *(b)* more than one household member is working but for insufficient hours to qualify for working tax credit is negligible.

Analysis of the benefit cap is based on a very small sample using survey data, therefore, any assessment of those households affected by the benefit cap is subject to uncertainty.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has carried out an equalities impact assessment on the proposals to accelerate the timetable for the increase in the state pension age. [57387]

Steve Webb: The White Paper "A sustainable State Pension: when the State Pension age will increase to 66", published in November 2010, contains an equality impact assessment of the proposed changes to the state pension age. The impact assessment has subsequently been republished twice, on the introduction of the Pensions Bill in the Lords and in the Commons. A copy of the latest version has been placed in the Library.

Winter Fuel Payments: Expenditure

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to publish information on expenditure on winter fuel payments for 2010-11. [57173]

Steve Webb: Winter fuel payments outturn expenditure for 2010-11 will be published in the Department' for Work and Pensions resource accounts publication on the 18 July 2011.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Co-ordination

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent steps he has taken to develop more efficient and co-ordinated working practices across Government Departments. [57084]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* The Efficiency and Reform Group has been set up to create a new corporate centre to drive reform and co-ordinate actions across Departments. It is introducing a more unified approach to common processes across Government in order to deliver a step change in efficiency in areas such as civil service HR, ICT, commercial and procurement, estates and other support functions.

Recently, for example, it has published the Government's ICT strategy, which will deliver better public services for less cost. A common ICT infrastructure will allow for the sharing and re-use of our ICT assets across organisational boundaries. This will save millions by reducing duplication and waste, and improve the way we deliver and use ICT. Our new centralised procurement model will reform how Government buys common goods and services, through centrally managing the procurement of certain categories of spend such as energy, office solutions and travel. ERG has implemented controls on Government spending, requiring central approval for certain categories of spend to ensure a co-ordinated approach across Departments and to prevent non-essential expenditure.

ERG has already been effective in supporting Departments to achieve savings, which are expected to have reached over £3 billion in 2010-11.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the difference was in the number of registered electors in each constituency between 2009 and 2010; and what assessment he has made of the reasons for any differences. [57192]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply to the hon. Member. A copy of their response will be placed in the Library.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the difference was in the number of registered electors in each constituency between 2009 and 2010; and what assessment has been made of the reasons for any differences (57192).

Table 1 shows the difference in the number of registered parliamentary electors between 2009 and 2010 for each parliamentary constituency in the UK.

The Government has not made an assessment of the reasons for the difference in registered electors in individual constituencies. However, the Electoral Commission will be conducting research on the completeness and accuracy of electoral registers as part of the introduction of individual electoral registration.

Table 1: Registered parliamentary electors for each parliamentary constituency in the UK, constituent countries of the United Kingdom, parliamentary constituencies[1]

		Total electors		Difference
Parliamentary constituency		*1 December 2009*	*1 December 2010*	*2010 minus 2009*
United Kingdom		45,420,808	45,844,691	423,883
England		38,129,082	38,443,481	314,399
Aldershot[2]	B	70,596	71,908	1,312
Aldridge-Brownhills	B	59,214	59,506	292
Altrincham and Sale West	B	71,192	72,008	816
Amber Valley	C	69,385	69,538	153
Arundel and South Downs	C	76,018	76,697	679
Ashfield	C	77,692	77,049	-643
Ashford	C	81,088	81,947	859
Ashton-under-Lyne	B	67,657	68,553	896
Aylesbury	C	78,017	78,750	733
Banbury	C	83,933	84,063	130
Barking	B	73,303	74,027	724
Barnsley Central	B	64,864	64,732	-132
Barnsley East	C	68,011	68,243	232
Barrow and Furness	C	69,281	69,148	-133
Basildon and Billericay	B	65,302	65,373	71
Basingstoke	B	75,108	75,470	362
Bassetlaw	C	76,741	78,306	1,565
Bath	B	65,992	66,690	698
Batley and Spen	B	76,619	77,472	853
Battersea	B	71,941	73,028	1,087
Beaconsfield	C	74,284	75,320	1,036
Beckenham	B	66,029	66,470	441
Bedford	B	68,692	69,019	327

Table 1: Registered parliamentary electors for each parliamentary constituency in the UK, constituent countries of the United Kingdom, parliamentary constituencies[1]

Table 1: Registered parliamentary electors for each parliamentary constituency in the UK, constituent countries of the United Kingdom, parliamentary constituencies[1]

		Total electors		Difference
Parliamentary constituency		*1 December 2009*	*1 December 2010*	*2010 minus 2009*
Bermondsey and Old Southwark	B	75,838	77,186	1,348
Berwick-upon-Tweed	C	57,112	55,785	-1,327
Bethnal Green and Bow	B	76,272	79,581	3,309
Beverley and Holderness	C	79,788	79,775	-13
Bexhill and Battle	C	78,169	78,602	433
Bexleyheath and Crayford	B	64,791	64,144	-647
Birkenhead	B	62,970	62,432	-538
Birmingham Edgbaston	B	68,566	69,039	473
Birmingham Erdington	B	66,839	67,598	759
Birmingham Hall Green	B	76,576	77,157	581
Birmingham Hodge Hill	B	75,330	75,985	655
Birmingham Ladywood	B	72,809	74,008	1,199
Birmingham Northfield	B	71,866	72,190	324
Birmingham Perry Barr	B	71,647	71,794	147
Birmingham Selly Oak	B	75,048	75,668	620
Birmingham Yardley	B	72,732	73,261	529
Bishop Auckland	C	68,170	68,501	331
Blackburn	B	71,822	72,112	290
Blackley and Broughton	B	68,825	69,006	181
Blackpool North and Cleveleys	B	66,011	66,187	176
Blackpool South	B	63,461	64,081	620
Blaydon	B	67,791	68,156	365
Blyth Valley	B	64,035	63,173	-862
Bognor Regis and Littlehampton	C	71,033	70,535	-498
Bolsover	C	73,170	72,162	-1,008
Bolton North East	B	66,682	66,600	-82
Bolton South East	B	69,077	69,088	11
Bolton West	C	71,061	71,454	393
Bootle	B	71,995	70,824	-1,171
Boston and Skegness	C	70,973	70,620	-353
Bosworth	C	77,351	77,787	436
Bournemouth East[2]	B	71,886	72,961	1,075
Bournemouth West[2]	B	70,913	72,714	1,801
Bracknell	C	76,947	77,490	543
Bradford East	B	64,382	66,718	2,336
Bradford South	B	63,532	64,715	1,183
Bradford West	B	60,658	63,425	2,767
Braintree	C	70,956	72,064	1,108
Brent Central	B	72,671	73,385	714
Brent North	B	81,811	82,648	837
Brentford and Isleworth	B	82,569	83,332	763
Brentwood and Ongar	C	70,362	71,041	679
Bridgwater and West Somerset	C	81,874	82,936	1,062
Brigg and Goole	C	66,821	66,734	-87
Brighton Kemptown	B	65,057	66,557	1,500
Brighton Pavilion	B	72,234	73,430	1,196
Bristol East	B	68,999	69,347	348
Bristol North West	B	73,104	73,920	816
Bristol South	B	78,148	78,703	555
Bristol West	B	79,633	82,503	2,870
Broadland	C	71,982	73,066	1,084
Bromley and Chislehurst	B	65,210	65,508	298
Bromsgrove[3]	C	73,430	73,279	-151
Broxbourne	B	71,224	71,872	648
Broxtowe	C	71,440	71,961	521
Buckingham	C	75,076	75,837	761
Burnley	B	66,876	67,003	127
Burton	C	75,081	75,302	221
Bury North	B	67,421	67,911	490
Bury South	B	74,313	75,140	827
Bury St Edmunds	C	84,588	85,933	1,345
Calder Valley	C	77,069	76,041	-1,028
Camberwell and Peckham	B	76,967	78,605	1,638
Camborne and Redruth	C	63,694	64,798	1,104
Cambridge	B	75,612	75,259	-353
Cannock Chase	C	74,828	75,680	852
Canterbury	C	73,637	73,779	142
Carlisle	C	65,621	66,322	701
Carshalton and Wallington	B	66,634	67,044	410
Castle Point	B	67,689	64,562	-3,127
Central Devon	C	71,089	71,563	474
Central Suffolk and North Ipswich	C	76,137	76,177	40
Charnwood	C	74,734	75,454	720
Chatham and Aylesford	C	67,829	68,437	608
Cheadle	B	71,927	71,797	-130
Chelmsford	B	77,607	77,835	228
Chelsea and Fulham	B	63,707	62,958	-749
Cheltenham	B	78,469	77,937	-532
Chesham and Amersham	C	70,021	70,723	702
Chesterfield	B	72,077	72,866	789
Chichester	C	81,182	81,804	622
Chingford and Woodford Green	C	64,804	64,770	-34
Chippenham	C	71,870	73,312	1,442
Chipping Barnet	B	73,995	76,455	2,460
Chorley	C	71,204	71,333	129
Christchurch	C	68,683	69,008	325
Cities of London and Westminster	B	64,044	65,140	1,096
City of Chester	C	68,899	68,280	-619
City of Durham	C	67,642	72,659	5,017
Clacton	C	67,216	67,447	231
Cleethorpes	C	70,722	70,895	173
Colchester	B	73,501	73,638	137
Colne Valley	C	79,925	80,791	866
Congleton	C	74,806	73,820	-986
Copeland	C	63,688	63,696	8
Corby	C	78,275	79,468	1,193
Coventry North East	B	72,490	74,870	2,380
Coventry North West	B	73,030	74,180	1,150
Coventry South	B	73,346	75,705	2,359
Crawley	B	72,024	71,793	-231
Crewe and Nantwich	C	78,469	78,845	376

Table 1: Registered parliamentary electors for each parliamentary constituency in the UK, constituent countries of the United Kingdom, parliamentary constituencies[1]

Parliamentary constituency		Total electors		Difference
		1 December 2009	1 December 2010	2010 minus 2009
Croydon Central	B	75,646	76,980	1,334
Croydon North	B	83,121	85,107	1,986
Croydon South	B	80,780	81,554	774
Dagenham and Rainham	B	69,599	70,187	588
Darlington	B	68,508	67,476	-1,032
Dartford	C	75,085	74,756	-329
Daventry	C	71,636	71,903	267
Denton and Reddish	B	64,839	65,684	845
Derby North	B	71,370	72,617	1,247
Derby South	B	71,110	72,048	938
Derbyshire Dales	C	63,972	63,732	-240
Devizes	C	66,972	68,846	1,874
Dewsbury	C	78,610	79,634	1,024
Don Valley	C	72,880	73,674	794
Doncaster Central	B	73,189	73,874	685
Doncaster North	C	72,040	72,855	815
Dover	C	71,535	71,993	458
Dudley North	B	60,977	61,714	737
Dudley South	B	60,887	61,308	421
Dulwich and West Norwood	B	70,786	71,523	737
Ealing Central and Acton	B	69,149	69,828	679
Ealing North	B	72,876	73,105	229
Ealing Southall	B	64,253	65,768	1,515
Easington	C	63,387	65,618	2,231
East Devon	C	72,717	72,406	-311
East Ham	B	87,809	91,531	3,722
East Hampshire	C	71,779	72,648	869
East Surrey	C	76,847	77,145	298
East Worthing and Shoreham	C	72,524	72,996	472
East Yorkshire	C	80,513	80,435	-78
Eastbourne	B	77,272	76,978	-294
Eastleigh	B	77,320	78,313	993
Eddisbury	C	67,296	65,914	-1,382
Edmonton	B	63,457	64,356	899
Ellesmere Port and Neston	C	65,739	66,995	1,256
Elmet and Rothwell	C	77,858	77,994	136
Eltham	B	62,005	63,059	1,054
Enfield North	B	66,638	66,761	123
Enfield Southgate	B	63,890	64,932	1,042
Epping Forest	C	72,006	72,212	206
Epsom and Ewell	B	76,052	76,916	864
Erewash	C	69,599	70,022	423
Erith and Thamesmead	B	69,010	69,718	708
Esher and Walton	B	75,716	76,962	1,246
Exeter	B	75,936	76,796	860
Fareham	C	75,829	76,457	628
Faversham and Mid Kent	C	69,075	68,521	-554
Feltham and Heston	B	80,783	80,437	-346
Filton and Bradley Stoke	C	68,763	69,732	969
Finchley and Golders Green	B	69,862	71,595	1,733
Folkestone and Hythe	C	77,573	84,156	6,583
Forest of Dean	C	68,839	68,703	-136
Fylde	C	65,933	66,504	571
Gainsborough	C	72,833	73,795	962
Garston and Halewood	B	71,346	71,618	272
Gateshead	B	66,250	66,066	-184
Gedling[3]	C	70,989	70,886	-103
Gillingham and Rainham	B	71,302	71,109	-193
Gloucester	B	79,972	80,788	816
Gosport	B	72,880	72,845	-35
Grantham and Stamford	C	77,694	79,118	1,424
Gravesham	C	69,898	70,412	514
Great Grimsby	B	61,653	61,929	276
Great Yarmouth	C	70,196	70,526	330
Greenwich and Woolwich	B	62,950	66,982	4,032
Guildford	C	76,836	77,517	681
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	B	72,355	74,780	2,425
Hackney South and Shoreditch	B	71,245	73,778	2,533
Halesowen and Rowley Regis	B	67,358	67,656	298
Halifax	B	70,622	69,126	-1,496
Haltemprice and Howden	C	70,574	70,864	290
Halton[2]	C	69,461	70,322	861
Hammersmith	B	69,774	70,008	234
Hampstead and Kilburn	B	77,254	78,552	1,298
Harborough	C	78,125	78,753	628
Harlow	C	67,425	67,700	275
Harrogate and Knaresborough	C	74,560	75,044	484
Harrow East	B	71,533	72,537	1,004
Harrow West	B	68,264	69,135	871
Hartlepool	B	69,284	70,010	726
Harwich and North Essex	C	70,681	71,087	406
Hastings and Rye	C	77,022	76,422	-600
Havant	B	70,004	70,568	564
Hayes and Harlington	B	69,811	70,589	778
Hazel Grove	C	62,665	62,422	-243
Hemel Hempstead	C	72,682	72,561	-121
Hemsworth	C	73,195	73,487	292
Hendon	B	72,102	74,329	2,227
Henley	C	73,538	73,851	313
Hereford and South Herefordshire	C	72,245	71,352	-893
Hertford and Stortford	C	78,211	79,255	1,044
Hertsmere	C	69,438	70,772	1,334
Hexham	C	61,085	60,499	-586
Heywood and Middleton	C	79,031	79,636	605
High Peak	C	71,685	72,178	493
Hitchin and Harpenden	C	73,811	74,189	378
Holborn and St Pancras	B	84,266	85,243	977
Hornchurch and Upminster	B	78,913	79,568	655
Hornsey and Wood Green	B	78,505	79,878	1,373
Horsham	C	76,224	77,001	777
Houghton and Sunderland South	B	69,190	70,115	925

Table 1: Registered parliamentary electors for each parliamentary constituency in the UK, constituent countries of the United Kingdom, parliamentary constituencies[1]

Table 1: Registered parliamentary electors for each parliamentary constituency in the UK, constituent countries of the United Kingdom, parliamentary constituencies[1]

		Total electors		Difference
Parliamentary constituency		*1 December 2009*	*1 December 2010*	*2010 minus 2009*
Hove	B	70,598	71,181	583
Huddersfield	B	66,206	66,681	475
Huntingdon	C	83,376	79,134	-4,242
Hyndburn	B	66,924	69,617	2,693
Ilford North	B	72,281	72,702	421
Ilford South	B	84,599	86,401	1,802
Ipswich	B	76,530	75,195	-1,335
Isle of Wight	C	110,228	110,924	696
Islington North	B	66,472	68,777	2,305
Islington South and Finsbury	B	66,184	67,613	1,429
Jarrow	B	64,826	65,047	221
Keighley	C	65,282	66,971	1,689
Kenilworth and Southam	C	63,931	63,772	-159
Kensington	B	63,134	62,784	-350
Kettering	C	68,786	69,610	824
Kingston and Surbiton	B	80,229	80,639	410
Kingston upon Hull East	B	68,024	68,150	126
Kingston upon Hull North	B	63,473	65,219	1,746
Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle	B	60,947	61,232	285
Kingswood	B	66,418	67,199	781
Knowsley	B	79,271	79,334	63
Lancaster and Fleetwood	C	66,260	67,305	1,045
Leeds Central	B	79,696	80,912	1,216
Leeds East	B	64,479	64,742	263
Leeds North East	B	67,489	68,269	780
Leeds North West	B	64,822	65,047	225
Leeds West	B	67,243	67,222	-21
Leicester East	B	73,320	74,377	1,057
Leicester South	B	77,156	78,433	1,277
Leicester West	B	65,058	65,432	374
Leigh	C	75,330	77,001	1,671
Lewes	C	68,125	68,515	390
Lewisham East	B	64,937	65,508	571
Lewisham West and Penge	B	68,352	69,399	1,047
Lewisham Deptford	B	64,809	67,590	2,781
Leyton and Wanstead	C	62,102	63,021	919
Lichfield	C	72,504	73,085	581
Lincoln	B	72,839	72,662	-177
Liverpool Riverside	B	73,310	73,406	96
Liverpool Walton	B	62,746	61,974	-772
Liverpool Wavertree	B	62,112	61,679	-433
Liverpool West Derby	B	63,130	62,709	-421
Loughborough	C	77,464	77,884	420
Louth and Horncastle	C	77,210	76,233	-977
Ludlow	C	66,285	66,199	-86
Luton North	B	65,721	66,273	552
Luton South	B	65,184	65,889	705
Macclesfield	C	74,595	73,613	-982
Maidenhead[2]	C	72,568	74,028	1,460
Maidstone and the Weald	C	71,199	70,576	-623
Makerfield	C	73,447	74,856	1,409
Maldon	C	68,872	69,539	667
Manchester Central	B	85,522	89,519	3,997
Manchester Gorton	B	72,535	74,681	2,146
Manchester Withington	B	72,514	73,656	1,142
Mansfield	C	80,247	79,849	-398
Meon Valley	C	70,306	71,291	985
Meriden	C	82,400	83,428	1,028
Mid Bedfordshire	C	75,914	76,381	467
Mid Derbyshire	C	65,929	66,572	643
Mid Dorset and North Poole	C	64,776	64,705	-71
Mid Norfolk	C	74,464	75,079	615
Mid Sussex	C	75,954	77,044	1,090
Mid Worcestershire	C	71,858	71,660	-198
Middlesbrough	B	65,726	65,851	125
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	C	73,123	72,876	-247
Milton Keynes North	C	81,991	81,226	-765
Milton Keynes South	B	86,901	85,552	-1,349
Mitcham and Morden	B	65,390	67,074	1,684
Mole Valley	C	72,110	72,568	458
Morecambe and Lunesdale	C	68,750	69,254	504
Morley and Outwood	C	74,487	75,163	676
New Forest East	C	72,955	73,542	587
New Forest West	C	68,239	68,987	748
Newark	C	71,650	72,407	757
Newbury	C	78,468	77,898	-570
Newcastle upon Tyne Central	B	60,565	60,795	230
Newcastle upon Tyne East	B	64,647	65,203	556
Newcastle upon Tyne North	B	67,285	67,401	116
Newcastle-under-Lyme	B	68,819	68,692	-127
Newton Abbot	C	69,406	69,600	194
Normanton Pontefract and Castleford	C	82,834	83,284	450
North Cornwall	C	68,055	68,206	151
North Devon	C	74,408	75,098	690
North Dorset	C	74,031	73,010	-1,021
North Durham	C	67,284	68,959	1,675
North East Bedfordshire	C	77,191	78,350	1,159
North East Cambridgeshire[2, 3]	C	82,787	83,661	874
North East Derbyshire	C	71,637	72,374	737
North East Hampshire[2]	C	71,580	72,548	968
North East Hertfordshire	C	71,993	72,658	665
North East Somerset	C	68,024	68,546	522
North Herefordshire	C	67,280	66,711	-569
North Norfolk	C	67,977	68,277	300
North Shropshire[2]	C	78,611	77,673	-938
North Somerset	C	77,150	78,223	1,073
North Swindon	C	78,583	79,488	905
North Thanet	C	68,568	67,110	-1,458
North Tyneside	B	78,389	78,617	228
North Warwickshire	C	70,415	70,544	129

Table 1: Registered parliamentary electors for each parliamentary constituency in the UK, constituent countries of the United Kingdom, parliamentary constituencies[1]

		Total electors		*Difference*
Parliamentary constituency		*1 December 2009*	*1 December 2010*	*2010 minus 2009*
North West Cambridgeshire	C	84,255	89,419	5,164
North West Durham	C	70,167	72,760	2,593
North West Hampshire	C	76,608	77,020	412
North West Leicestershire	C	71,108	72,022	914
North West Norfolk	C	73,397	73,269	-128
North Wiltshire	C	65,762	67,154	1,392
Northampton North	B	61,749	62,095	346
Northampton South	B	62,852	63,748	896
Norwich North[2]	B	64,496	64,982	486
Norwich South	B	72,538	73,569	1,031
Nottingham East	B	57,353	59,489	2,136
Nottingham North	B	63,271	64,578	1,307
Nottingham South	B	66,100	69,154	3,054
Nuneaton	C	68,117	68,288	171
Old Bexley and Sidcup	B	65,379	65,161	-218
Oldham East and Saddleworth	C	72,307	72,249	-58
Oldham West and Royton	B	72,066	72,402	336
Orpington	B	67,765	68,221	456
Oxford East	B	80,113	81,644	1,531
Oxford West and Abingdon[2, 3]	C	77,826	77,811	-15
Pendle	B	66,461	66,735	274
Penistone and Stocksbridge	C	68,628	69,133	505
Penrith and The Border	C	65,041	65,234	193
Peterborough	B	69,732	72,787	3,055
Plymouth Moor View	B	67,501	68,556	1,055
Plymouth Sutton and Devonport	B	69,474	71,236	1,762
Poole	B	72,314	72,773	459
Poplar and Limehouse	B	70,880	74,919	4,039
Portsmouth North	B	70,464	71,798	1,334
Portsmouth South	B	69,456	71,947	2,491
Preston	B	60,538	61,025	487
Pudsey	B	69,207	69,738	531
Putney	B	62,223	62,153	-70
Rayleigh and Wickford	C	75,694	76,089	395
Reading East[2]	B	74,855	78,170	3,315
Reading West[2]	C	71,584	73,216	1,632
Redcar	B	67,405	67,195	-210
Redditch	C	66,977	66,492	-485
Reigate	B	71,233	72,043	810
Ribble Valley	C	77,282	77,437	155
Richmond (Yorks)	C	81,314	78,902	-2,412
Richmond Park	B	75,495	76,650	1,155
Rochdale	C	77,471	77,699	228
Rochester and Strood	C	74,269	75,001	732
Rochford and Southend East	C	71,582	71,131	-451
Romford	B	71,306	71,978	672
Romsey and Southampton North	C	67,397	67,696	299
Rossendale and Darwen	B	73,092	73,443	351
Rother Valley	C	72,168	73,068	900
Rotherham	B	62,977	63,131	154
Rugby	C	68,759	69,932	1,173
Ruislip Northwood and Pinner	B	70,979	71,706	727
Runnymede and Weybridge	C	72,455	73,680	1,225
Rushcliffe	C	72,774	73,430	656
Rutland and Melton	C	77,096	77,324	228
Saffron Walden	C	75,871	77,109	1,238
Salford and Eccles	B	74,817	76,863	2,046
Salisbury	C	67,080	68,731	1,651
Scarborough and Whitby	C	76,032	76,078	46
Scunthorpe	C	63,427	63,489	62
Sedgefield	C	65,746	67,386	1,640
Sefton Central	C	67,766	67,696	-70
Selby and Ainsty	C	72,532	73,580	1,048
Sevenoaks	C	70,079	69,925	-154
Sheffield Central	B	65,515	69,975	4,460
Sheffield South East	B	67,559	67,792	233
Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough	B	68,194	69,206	1,012
Sheffield Hallam	C	68,863	70,032	1,169
Sheffield Heeley	B	65,904	66,432	528
Sherwood[3]	C	71,671	72,111	440
Shipley	C	67,484	68,125	641
Shrewsbury and Atcham[2]	C	75,076	73,978	-1,098
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	C	75,509	74,796	-713
Skipton and Ripon	C	76,654	77,098	444
Sleaford and North Hykeham	C	84,627	85,561	934
Slough	B	78,477	81,327	2,850
Solihull	B	76,638	77,354	716
Somerton and Frome	C	81,566	82,150	584
South Basildon and East Thurrock	C	71,947	71,819	-128
South Cambridgeshire	C	78,612	80,001	1,389
South Derbyshire	C	70,443	71,326	883
South Dorset	C	73,168	73,499	331
South East Cambridgeshire[2, 3]	C	81,144	82,265	1,121
South East Cornwall	C	71,900	71,851	-49
South Holland and the Deepings	C	76,529	76,939	410
South Leicestershire	C	77,031	77,412	381
South Norfolk	C	76,010	77,317	1,307
South Northamptonshire	C	82,052	82,956	904
South Ribble	C	75,039	75,116	77
South Shields	B	63,841	63,765	-76
South Staffordshire	C	73,630	74,189	559
South Suffolk	C	72,641	72,965	324
South Swindon	C	72,803	73,449	646
South Thanet	C	70,367	67,970	-2,397
South West Bedfordshire	C	76,111	76,178	67
South West Devon	C	70,414	70,756	342
South West Hertfordshire	C	78,044	78,269	225
South West Norfolk	C	74,186	75,034	848
South West Surrey	C	76,719	76,495	-224

Table 1: Registered parliamentary electors for each parliamentary constituency in the UK, constituent countries of the United Kingdom, parliamentary constituencies[1]

Parliamentary constituency		*Total electors*		*Difference*
		1 December 2009	*1 December 2010*	*2010 minus 2009*
South West Wiltshire	C	71,452	72,820	1,368
Southampton Itchen	B	74,720	74,513	-207
Southampton Test	B	71,712	71,263	-449
Southend West	B	66,965	66,780	-185
Southport	B	67,761	67,803	42
Spelthorne	B	70,962	71,211	249
St Albans	C	69,836	70,298	462
St Austell and Newquay	C	75,721	75,974	253
St Helens North	B	75,866	75,688	-178
St Helens South and Whiston	B	78,705	78,612	-93
St Ives	C	66,430	66,696	266
Stafford	C	70,512	69,832	-680
Staffordshire Moorlands	C	62,377	62,457	80
Stalybridge and Hyde	C	69,058	70,691	1,633
Stevenage	C	67,948	69,357	1,409
Stockport	B	62,950	62,764	-186
Stockton North	B	66,990	67,333	343
Stockton South	B	73,924	74,521	597
Stoke-on-Trent Central	B	61,083	61,774	691
Stoke-on-Trent North	B	72,245	72,225	-20
Stoke-on-Trent South	B	68,301	68,624	323
Stone	C	66,865	66,729	-136
Stourbridge	B	69,855	70,225	370
Stratford-on-Avon	C	69,366	69,108	-258
Streatham	B	71,902	71,913	11
Stretford and Urmston	B	70,056	70,520	464
Stroud	C	78,252	79,135	883
Suffolk Coastal	C	77,142	76,932	-210
Sunderland Central	B	74,668	76,292	1,624
Surrey Heath	C	77,342	78,453	1,111
Sutton and Cheam	B	66,250	66,571	321
Sutton Coldfield	B	74,877	75,031	154
Tamworth	C	71,967	72,544	577
Tatton	C	66,236	65,200	-1,036
Taunton Deane	C	82,281	82,882	601
Telford	B	65,363	65,938	575
Tewkesbury	C	76,406	77,206	800
The Cotswolds	C	77,147	78,439	1,292
The Wrekin[2]	C	65,477	66,111	634
Thirsk and Malton	C	76,833	77,230	397
Thornbury and Yate	C	64,087	64,736	649
Thurrock	B	77,723	77,667	-56
Tiverton and Honiton	C	76,754	75,839	-915
Tonbridge and Malling	C	71,009	71,989	980
Tooting	B	71,993	72,707	714
Torbay	B	76,253	76,219	-34
Torridge and West Devon	C	76,574	77,417	843
Totnes	C	67,831	67,562	-269
Tottenham	B	68,338	70,162	1,824
Truro and Falmouth	C	70,366	71,340	974
Tunbridge Wells	C	72,364	73,028	664
Twickenham	B	78,667	79,172	505
Tynemouth	B	76,445	76,618	173
Uxbridge and South Ruislip	B	71,059	71,954	895
Vauxhall	B	71,781	73,274	1,493
Wakefield	C	71,111	71,531	420
Wallasey	B	66,068	65,732	-336
Walsall North	B	64,984	65,468	484
Walsall South	B	64,710	66,082	1,372
Walthamstow	C	64,293	64,482	189
Wansbeck	C	62,882	62,395	-487
Wantage[2, 3]	C	78,777	79,775	998
Warley	B	63,232	63,024	-208
Warrington North	B	70,953	71,836	883
Warrington South	B	79,633	81,212	1,579
Warwick and Leamington	B	67,030	66,278	-752
Washington and Sunderland West	B	69,305	70,177	872
Watford	B	80,013	80,939	926
Waveney	C	79,035	79,132	97
Wealden	C	76,724	77,536	812
Weaver Vale[2]	C	66,859	66,008	-851
Wellingborough	C	76,797	76,848	51
Wells	C	79,116	79,989	873
Welwyn Hatfield	C	71,731	71,766	35
Wentworth and Dearne	C	72,014	72,272	258
West Bromwich East	B	63,218	63,008	-210
West Bromwich West	B	65,472	65,249	-223
West Dorset	C	76,877	76,779	-98
West Ham	B	83,572	86,400	2,828
West Lancashire	C	72,347	73,028	681
West Suffolk	C	74,161	76,158	1,997
West Worcestershire	C	72,688	73,001	313
Westminster North	B	64,459	65,936	1,477
Westmorland and Lonsdale	C	67,027	66,609	-418
Weston-Super-Mare	C	78,516	78,778	262
Wigan	C	75,035	76,779	1,744
Wimbledon	B	64,933	65,936	1,003
Winchester	C	73,339	74,138	799
Windsor[2]	C	68,901	70,633	1,732
Wirral South	C	56,200	56,238	38
Wirral West	C	55,152	55,077	-75
Witham	C	66,887	67,451	564
Witney[3]	C	78,141	78,220	79
Woking	C	73,064	74,328	1,264
Wokingham	C	76,378	75,886	-492
Wolverhampton North East	B	59,130	60,354	1,224
Wolverhampton South East	B	60,290	61,751	1,461
Wolverhampton South West	B	58,431	59,846	1,415
Worcester	B	72,965	73,960	995
Workington	C	59,702	59,361	-341
Worsley and Eccles South	C	73,019	73,409	390
Worthing West	B	73,784	74,468	684
Wycombe	C	73,306	73,750	444
Wyre and Preston North	C	71,572	71,612	40
Wyre Forest	C	76,774	77,800	1,026
Wythenshawe and Sale East	B	75,096	75,602	506

Table 1: Registered parliamentary electors for each parliamentary constituency in the UK, constituent countries of the United Kingdom, parliamentary constituencies[1]

Parliamentary constituency		*Total electors*		*Difference*
		1 December 2009	*1 December 2010*	*2010 minus 2009*
Yeovil	C	82,767	82,771	4
York Central	B	74,013	75,656	1,643
York Outer	C	74,797	75,125	328
Wales		2,261,269	2,281,596	20,327
Aberavon	C	51,318	51,034	-284
Aberconwy	C	44,587	44,962	375
Alyn and Deeside	C	60,957	61,485	528
Arfon	C	40,889	40,707	-182
Blaenau Gwent	C	52,971	53,517	546
Brecon and Radnorshire	C	53,642	53,633	-9
Bridgend	C	58,948	58,936	-12
Caerphilly	C	61,873	61,633	-240
Cardiff Central	B	60,429	62,218	1,789
Cardiff North	B	65,307	66,290	983
Cardiff South and Penarth	B	73,405	73,690	285
Cardiff West	B	62,530	63,360	830
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	C	52,433	54,285	1,852
Carmarthen W and S Pembrokeshire	C	58,302	58,504	202
Ceredigion	C	58,683	56,006	-2,677
Clwyd South	C	53,855	54,243	388
Clwyd West	C	57,934	58,215	281
Cynon Valley	C	50,747	52,216	1,469
Delyn	C	53,577	53,906	329
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	C	45,508	44,796	-712
Gower[4]	C	61,899	62,148	249
Islwyn	C	54,654	54,611	-43
Llanelli	C	55,841	58,447	2,606
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	C	52,315	54,757	2,442
Monmouth	C	64,638	65,101	463
Montgomeryshire	C	48,777	48,563	-214
Neath	C	57,700	57,618	-82
Newport East	C	54,140	54,826	686
Newport West	C	61,314	62,465	1,151
Ogmore	C	55,895	55,699	-196
Pontypridd	C	58,121	60,016	1,895
Preseli Pembrokeshire	C	56,443	57,966	1,523
Rhondda	C	51,706	52,765	1,059
Swansea East[4]	B	59,865	60,554	689
Swansea West[4]	B	61,005	62,152	1,147
Torfaen	C	61,616	61,644	28
Vale of Clwyd	C	55,968	56,264	296
Vale of Glamorgan	C	70,428	71,171	743
Wrexham	C	50,849	51,669	820
Ynys Mon	C	50,200	49,524	-676
Scotland		3,869,700	3,928,979	59,279
Aberdeen North	B	64,646	64,753	107
Aberdeen South	B	63,684	64,330	646
Airdrie and Shotts	C	62,647	62,789	142
Angus	C	63,181	64,178	997
Argyll and Bute	C	67,461	67,692	231
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	C	73,796	73,708	-88
Banff and Buchan	C	64,701	65,183	482
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	C	74,157	74,115	-42
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross	C	47,263	47,572	309
Central Ayrshire	C	68,808	69,243	435
Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill	B	70,473	70,537	64
Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East	C	64,331	64,337	6
Dumfries and Galloway	C	74,847	74,414	-433
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	C	66,811	67,066	255
Dundee East	B	65,064	65,702	638
Dundee West	B	62,209	63,065	856
Dunfermline and West Fife	C	74,702	74,621	-81
East Dunbartonshire	C	63,948	64,186	238
East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow	C	77,262	77,985	723
East Lothian	C	73,454	74,320	866
East Renfrewshire	C	66,202	68,117	1,915
Edinburgh East	B	60,167	60,594	427
Edinburgh North and Leith	B	67,770	69,580	1,810
Edinburgh South	B	58,811	59,285	474
Edinburgh South West	B	66,114	66,262	148
Edinburgh West	B	65,337	65,526	189
Falkirk	C	82,667	82,473	-194
Glasgow Central	B	58,043	67,521	9,478
Glasgow East	B	61,994	66,482	4,488
Glasgow North	B	50,588	54,620	4,032
Glasgow North East	B	59,969	64,171	4,202
Glasgow North West	B	60,465	64,522	4,057
Glasgow South	B	64,921	69,122	4,201
Glasgow South West	B	58,166	62,378	4,212
Glenrothes	C	68,821	68,393	-428
Gordon	C	73,364	74,394	1,030
Inverclyde	C	58,971	61,038	2,067
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey	C	72,390	72,764	374
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	C	74,736	75,001	265
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	C	74,572	74,247	-325
Lanark and Hamilton East	C	75,318	76,190	872
Linlithgow and East Falkirk	C	81,064	81,756	692
Livingston	C	76,133	76,580	447
Midlothian	C	61,461	61,986	525
Moray	C	66,169	66,726	557
Motherwell and Wishaw	B	67,416	66,949	-467
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	C	21,908	21,837	-71
North Ayrshire and Arran	C	74,612	75,204	592
North East Fife	C	63,688	63,349	-339

Table 1: Registered parliamentary electors for each parliamentary constituency in the UK, constituent countries of the United Kingdom, parliamentary constituencies[1]

Parliamentary constituency		*Total electors*		*Difference*
		1 December 2009	*1 December 2010*	*2010 minus 2009*
Ochil and South Perthshire	C	75,576	75,848	272
Orkney and Shetland	C	33,290	33,755	465
Paisley and Renfrewshire North	C	63,846	65,847	2,001
Paisley and Renfrewshire South	C	61,310	63,268	1,958
Perth and North Perthshire	C	72,523	73,064	541
Ross, Skye and Lochaber	C	51,934	52,064	130
Rutherglen and Hamilton West	B	76,881	77,729	848
Stirling	C	66,218	66,743	525
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	C	66,198	67,060	862
West Dunbartonshire	C	66,642	66,738	96
Northern Ireland		1,160,757	1,190,635	29,878
Belfast East	B	58,104	60,050	1,946
Belfast North	B	64,572	66,825	2,253
Belfast South	B	58,644	60,726	2,082
Belfast West	B	59,083	60,520	1,437
East Antrim	C	59,974	61,253	1,279
East Londonderry	C	63,140	64,546	1,406
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	C	67,603	68,979	1,376
Foyle	C	65,129	67,810	2,681
Lagan Valley	C	64,841	66,327	1,486
Mid Ulster	C	63,887	65,655	1,768
Newry and Armagh	C	74,364	75,856	1,492
North Antrim	C	72,834	74,094	1,260
North Down	C	60,098	61,615	1,517
South Antrim	C	62,577	64,254	1,677
South Down	C	70,408	72,092	1,684
Strangford	C	60,037	61,566	1,529
Upper Bann	C	74,727	76,209	1,482
West Tyrone	C	60,735	62,258	1,523

Note:
C = county constituency
B = borough constituency.
[1] The constituencies for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland are the 'new' constituencies that came into effect at the last UK general election. The 'new' constituencies were used for the 2006 National Assembly for Wales elections.
[2] The Boundary Commission for England has compiled these figures with data supplied from local authorities on total electors and attainers within wards, for 1 December 2009. (Some constituencies cover more than one local authority).
[3] The Boundary Commission for England has made corrections to data supplied by local authorities on total electors and attainers within parliamentary constituencies, for 1 December 2009. (Some constituencies cover more than one local authority).
[4] At the time of publication, figures for Swansea local authority, for 1 December 2009 were not available. Therefore figures for 1 December 2008 are shown.
Sources:
Office for National Statistics
General Register Office for Scotland
Electoral Office for Northern Ireland.

Married People

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of adults in each local authority area were identified as married in the latest period for which figures are available. [56793]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply to the hon. Member. A copy of their response will be placed in the Library.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of adults in each local authority area were identified as married in the latest period for which figures are available. (56793)

The Annual Population Survey provides the best estimates of adults living in households who are married by local authority. The most recent statistics available are for 2009. Table 1 shows the proportion of adults in each local authority area who were married. In this instance an adult is considered to be aged 16 or over as this is the age at which it is legal to get married. Because the proportions come from a survey, they are subject to a margin of error.

Table 1: Percentage of those aged 16 or over who are married by local authority, UK, 2009

Local authority	*Percentage*
City of London	—
Barking and Dagenham	47
Barnet	48
Bexley	54
Brent	50
Bromley	53
Camden	37
Croydon	46
Ealing	45
Enfield	49
Greenwich	49
Hackney	36
Hammersmith and Fulham	39
Haringey	40
Harrow	54
Havering	51
Hillingdon	50
Hounslow	52
Islington	32
Kensington and Chelsea	44
Kingston upon Thames	47
Lambeth	31
Lewisham	37
Merton	51
Newham	43
Redbridge	56
Richmond upon Thames	53
Southwark	38
Sutton	53
Tower Hamlets	38
Waltham Forest	42
Wandsworth	33
Westminster	40
Bolton	50
Bury	53
Manchester	36
Oldham	53
Rochdale	52
Salford	41
Stockport	53
Tameside	51
Trafford	53
Wigan	53
Knowsley	44
Liverpool	40
St Helens	55

Table 1: Percentage of those aged 16 or over who are married by local authority, UK, 2009

Local authority	*Percentage*
Sefton	50
Wirral	50
Barnsley	51
Doncaster	53
Rotherham	54
Sheffield	47
Gateshead	47
Newcastle upon Tyne	43
North Tyneside	52
South Tyneside	50
Sunderland	49
Birmingham	49
Coventry	49
Dudley	54
Sandwell	48
Solihull	58
Walsall	52
Wolverhampton	48
Bradford	55
Calderdale	52
Kirklees	59
Leeds	43
Wakefield	50
Hartlepool	48
Middlesbrough	47
Redcar and Cleveland	54
Stockton-on-Tees	52
Darlington	54
Halton	50
Warrington	55
Blackburn with Darwen	54
Blackpool	44
Kingston upon Hull, City of	44
East Riding of Yorkshire	59
North East Lincolnshire	50
North Lincolnshire	57
York	51
Derby	52
Leicester	49
Rutland	60
Nottingham	38
Herefordshire, County of	57
Telford and Wrekin	55
Stoke-on-Trent	52
Bath and North East Somerset	49
Bristol, City of	41
North Somerset	58
South Gloucestershire	59
Plymouth	47
Torbay	52
Bournemouth	44
Poole	54
Swindon	53
Peterborough	52
Luton	52
Southend-on-Sea	51
Thurrock	56
Medway	55
Bracknell Forest	58
West Berkshire	60
Reading	51
Slough	54
Windsor and Maidenhead	56
Wokingham	63

Table 1: Percentage of those aged 16 or over who are married by local authority, UK, 2009

Local authority	*Percentage*
Milton Keynes	55
Brighton and Hove	36
Portsmouth	45
Southampton	44
Isle of Wight	54
Mid Bedfordshire	55
Bedford	54
South Bedfordshire	58
Aylesbury Vale	58
Chiltern	60
South Bucks	60
Wycombe	58
Cambridge	43
East Cambridgeshire	61
Fenland	53
Huntingdonshire	58
South Cambridgeshire	58
Chester	54
Congleton	61
Crewe and Nantwich	57
Ellesmere Port and Neston	56
Macclesfield	61
Vale Royal	58
Caradon	65
Carrick	54
Kerrier	61
North Cornwall	65
Penwith	45
Restormel	58
Allerdale	66
Barrow-in-Furness	49
Carlisle	54
Copeland	59
Eden	69
South Lakeland	59
Amber Valley	55
Bolsover	59
Chesterfield	54
Derbyshire Dales	65
Erewash	57
High Peak	57
North East Derbyshire	55
South Derbyshire	58
East Devon	62
Exeter	45
Mid Devon	61
North Devon	60
South Hams	59
Teignbridge	57
Torridge	59
West Devon	60
Christchurch	55
East Dorset	65
North Dorset	58
Purbeck	52
West Dorset	64
Weymouth and Portland	48
Chester-le-Street	48
Derwentside	57
Durham	51
Easington	49
Sedgefield	52
Teesdale	50
Wear Valley	54

Table 1: Percentage of those aged 16 or over who are married by local authority, UK, 2009

Local authority	*Percentage*
Eastbourne	49
Hastings	46
Lewes	58
Rother	57
Wealden	60
Basildon	50
Braintree	53
Brentwood	56
Castle Point	61
Chelmsford	61
Colchester	58
Epping Forest	51
Harlow	45
Maldon	60
Rochford	62
Tendring	57
Uttlesford	61
Cheltenham	44
Cotswold	64
Forest of Dean	61
Gloucester	53
Stroud	59
Tewkesbury	67
Basingstoke and Deane	55
East Hampshire	62
Eastleigh	59
Fareham	62
Gosport	56
Hart	57
Havant	64
New Forest	59
Rushmoor	61
Test Valley	60
Winchester	56
Broxbourne	54
Dacorum	59
East Hertfordshire	56
Hertsmere	59
North Hertfordshire	57
St Albans	59
Stevenage	59
Three Rivers	58
Watford	47
Welwyn Hatfield	54
Ashford	59
Canterbury	51
Dartford	64
Dover	57
Gravesham	49
Maidstone	57
Sevenoaks	58
Shepway	57
Swale	57
Thanet	45
Tonbridge and Malling	61
Tunbridge Wells	55
Burnley	49
Chorley	65
Fylde	52
Hyndburn	52
Lancaster	49
Pendle	54

Table 1: Percentage of those aged 16 or over who are married by local authority, UK, 2009

Local authority	*Percentage*
Preston	44
Ribble Valley	67
Rossendale	55
South Ribble	51
West Lancashire	59
Wyre	55
Blaby	59
Charnwood	53
Harborough	56
Hinckley and Bosworth	59
Melton	60
North West Leicestershire	55
Oadby and Wigston	56
Boston	56
East Lindsey	57
Lincoln	41
North Kesteven	60
South Holland	58
South Kesteven	51
West Lindsey	57
Breckland	58
Broadland	60
Great Yarmouth	56
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	59
North Norfolk	60
Norwich	38
South Norfolk	62
Corby	54
Daventry	56
East Northamptonshire	56
Kettering	45
Northampton	47
South Northamptonshire	65
Wellingborough	52
Alnwick	64
Berwick-upon-Tweed	61
Blyth Valley	61
Castle Morpeth	64
Tynedale	55
Wansbeck	52
Craven	57
Hambleton	64
Harrogate	56
Richmondshire	59
Ryedale	63
Scarborough	53
Selby	64
Ashfield	52
Bassetlaw	55
Broxtowe	55
Gedling	55
Mansfield	48
Newark and Sherwood	56
Rushcliffe	56
Cherwell	57
Oxford	43
South Oxfordshire	57
Vale of White Horse	57
West Oxfordshire	60
Bridgnorth	56
North Shropshire	56
Oswestry	51

Table 1: Percentage of those aged 16 or over who are married by local authority, UK, 2009

Local authority	*Percentage*
Shrewsbury and Atcham	57
South Shropshire	62
Mendip	55
Sedgemoor	60
South Somerset	56
Taunton Deane	53
West Somerset	60
Cannock Chase	52
East Staffordshire	53
Lichfield	56
Newcastle-under-Lyme	52
South Staffordshire	60
Stafford	55
Staffordshire Moorlands	55
Tamworth	50
Babergh	54
Forest Heath	62
Ipswich	45
Mid Suffolk	65
St Edmundsbury	53
Suffolk Coastal	52
Waveney	52
Elmbridge	66
Epsom and Ewell	57
Guildford	50
Mole Valley	57
Reigate and Banstead	47
Runnymede	46
Spelthorne	53
Surrey Heath	63
Tandridge	56
Waverley	57
Woking	54
North Warwickshire	57
Nuneaton and Bedworth	56
Rugby	63
Stratford-on-Avon	61
Warwick	52
Adur	57
Arun	55
Chichester	59
Crawley	54
Horsham	62
Mid Sussex	57
Worthing	59
Kennet	57
North Wiltshire	60
Salisbury	59
West Wiltshire	63
Bromsgrove	57
Malvern Hills	57
Redditch	57
Worcester	59
Wychavon	66
Wyre Forest	55
Anglesey, Isle of	57
Gwynedd	51
Conwy	57
Denbighshire	53
Flintshire	59
Wrexham	52
Powys	57
Ceredigion	48
Pembrokeshire	55
Carmarthenshire	57
Swansea	47
Neath Port Talbot	50
Bridgend	53
Vale of Glamorgan, The	52
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	50
Merthyr Tydfil	50
Caerphilly	51
Blaenau Gwent	51
Torfaen	52
Monmouthshire	60
Newport	54
Cardiff	44
Aberdeen City	50
Aberdeenshire	63
Angus	58
Argyll & Bute	59
Scot Borders, The	58
Clackmannanshire	54
West Dunbartonshire	49
Dumfries and Galloway	56
Dundee City	48
East Ayrshire	52
East Dunbartonshire	63
East Lothian	59
East Renfrewshire	63
Edinburgh, City of	43
Falkirk	56
Fife	57
Glasgow City	37
Highland	63
Inverclyde	50
Midlothian	58
Moray	58
North Ayrshire	52
North Lanarkshire	51
Orkney Islands	62
Perth and Kinross	62
Renfrewshire	53
Shetland Islands	61
South Ayrshire	57
South Lanarkshire	55
Stirling	56
West Lothian	55
Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	54
Northern Ireland	54
Total	52

Notes:

1. The sample size in the City of London is too small to calculate a meaningful percentage.
2. Data are not available by local authority in Northern Ireland.
3. The percentages include those who are married and separated from their partner. They exclude same sex couples who are in civil partnerships.
4. The Annual Population Survey is made up from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) plus various sample boosts. The APS is a household survey of people in the UK. It includes those resident at private addresses, but does not cover most communal establishments.

Source:

Annual Population Survey, ONS

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Political Party Funding

2. **Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to bring forward legislative proposals on the funding of political parties. [56960]

Mr Harper: The Government are committed to work to reform party funding. The Committee on Standards in Public Life is conducting a review and the Government will consider its recommendations, alongside other relevant evidence, before taking this forward.

Electoral Register

10. **Mr Evennett:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to increase the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register. [56968]

Mr Harper: Maintaining a complete and accurate electoral register is the responsibility of electoral registration officers (EROs). More can be done to support completeness and accuracy. So we have announced plans to speed up the implementation of individual electoral registration in 2014, which will ensure that only those entitled to vote will get on the register. We are also trialling data matching, which will launch in June this year, to help identify people missing from the register. If successful, we will consider rolling this out across the country.

West Lothian Question

13. **Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent representations he has received on the West Lothian question. [56971]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Deputy Prime Minister gave in response to the question by my hon. Friend the Member for Isle of Wight (Mr Turner), today.

Recall of Members of Parliament

14. **Clive Efford:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to publish his proposals for recall of hon. Members by their constituents. [56972]

Mr Harper: The Government are committed to bringing forward legislation to introduce a power to recall Members of Parliament where they have engaged in serious wrongdoing.

We are currently considering what would be the fairest, most appropriate and robust procedure and we will announce the details of our proposals before the summer recess.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of press release 283(2011) issued by the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights on the enfranchisement of prisoners; whether the Government was *(a)* consulted and *(b)* notified in advance of its publication; and what steps he plans to take in response to the comments made. [51636]

Mr Harper: The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights provided an advance copy of the press release to the UK Delegation to the Council of Europe on 29 March 2011.

We are not responding directly to the press release. However, the Justice Secretary met the Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Hammarberg, at the "High level Conference on the Future of the European Court of Human Rights" which took place in Izmir, Turkey on 26 and 27 April 2011. Throughout the Izmir conference, the Justice Secretary was clear that the Court must focus on truly important cases and have proper regard to the judgment of national parliaments and courts. This approach was endorsed at the conference, where the importance of the principle of subsidiarity was emphasised. An official record of the Izmir Declaration can be found here:

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/conferenceizmir/default_en.asp

EDUCATION

Children in Care: Higher Education

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether he has had discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on financial support for the continuation and extension of the Frank Buttle Trust quality mark for higher and further education institutions; [55761]

(2) whether his Department has plans to support the continuation and extension of the Frank Buttle Trust quality mark for higher and further education institutions. [55767]

Mr Hayes: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) does not provide direct funding to the Frank Buttle Trust to support the care quality mark in higher education institutions. Many universities, as autonomous institutions, choose to work with the Frank Buttle Trust to gain the care quality mark and they pay an annual fee direct to the Trust.

The (former) Learning and Skills Council had agreed to make a small contribution to the development project for England, which was exploring extending the quality mark to the further education sector. In recognition of the uncertainty caused by the transition from the Learning and Skills Council to the Skills Funding Agency and the Young People's Learning Agency, the Department also made a small contribution for the remainder of the development project. In return, the Trust was expected to work with the further education sector as it becomes more self-regulating; obtain support for the remainder of the project; and determine the viability of a sector-supported quality mark in the way described for higher education institutions.

The Department has not made any further commitment to financial support for the Frank Buttle Trust quality mark for further education institutions.

BIS reviewed awards in the further education system that were supported by public funds, but this quality mark was outside that review, given that no continued support or contribution is given by the Department.

Class Sizes: Middlesbrough

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average number of pupils per class in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency was (i) in each year from May 2005 to April 2010 and (ii) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [56722]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is shown in the table.

Information on class sizes is collected as part of the School Census in January each year. The classes are recorded as taught during a single selected period on the day of the census.

The latest available information is for January 2010 and can be accessed at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

Data for 2011 at national and local authority level are due to be published on 22 June 2011 and will be available as part of the 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2011' Statistical First Release at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools[1] [2]: classes as taught[3] as at January each year, in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency

	Average class size	
	Primary[1]	*State-funded secondary[1,2]*
2005	23.4	22.9
2006	23.8	22.3
2007	24.0	21.2
2008	24.0	21.2
2009	24.1	20.5
2010	24.0	20.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

Source:
School Census

Classroom Assistants

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the use of higher level teaching assistants in schools; and what discussions he has had with Ofsted about the extent to which inspectors may take into account in assessments the use of higher level teaching assistants in schools. [56212]

Mr Gibb: The Department has made no recent assessment of the use of higher level teaching assistants in schools.

We are committed to refocusing school inspection on four core areas; pupil achievement; teaching; leadership and management; and behaviour and safety. The Department is in regular discussion with Ofsted about this reform programme. The use of higher level teaching assistants will be relevant to the quality and impact of teaching and leadership. There are no plans for this specific issue to be routinely covered as a discrete aspect of the inspection.

Departmental Official Engagements

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the official engagements of the Minister of State for Children and Families were on 27 April 2011. [56614]

Sarah Teather: None.

Departmental Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which longitudinal studies monitoring the physical health and emotional well-being of children his Department has and its predecessors have undertaken in each of the last five years; when each such study commenced; what each was monitoring; what the budget of each was in each year; what plans there were for the future of each such study; and what their budgets have been to date. [56888]

Mr Gibb: In the last five years the Department for Education and its predecessors have invested in six longitudinal studies that collect information about children's physical health and mental well-being. These are:

The Longitudinal Study of Young People in England

The Longitudinal Study of Young People in England is a study which followed an initial cohort of 15,500 young people. Interviews were conducted annually from 2004 (when the respondents were academic age 13) to 2010 (when they were aged 19). This study was designed to enhance understanding of the transitions made by young people from the latter part of compulsory education into early adulthood. It collected a wide range of information pertaining to those issues, including data on outcomes and achievements, education, employment and benefits, relationships and behaviours, volunteering and life satisfaction.

Questions about emotional well-being were asked when respondents were aged 14, 16 and 19. The questions were adapted from tried and tested questions from existing surveys and do not include objective measures of physical health. A single self-reported assessment of health was obtained when respondents were aged 15 and 16.

The total budget for the study was £10,858,992 (from DfE and Treasury sources, with contributions from Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Department for Work and Pensions). The financial year breakdown was as follows:

	Budget (£)
2003-04	394,777
2004-05	2,841,133
2005-06	1,979,289
2006-07	1,852,496
2007-08	1,569,700
2008-09	956,486
2009-10	771,105
2010-11	494,006
Total	10,858,992

DfE have no plans to conduct further interviews of this cohort and no decisions have been made to date about future cohort studies of young people.

The National Evaluation of Sure Start Impact Study

Development of the National Evaluation of Sure Start (NESS) Impact Study commenced in 2000 and fieldwork started in 2003. The objective of the study is to assess the effects of the earliest Sure Start Local Programmes on child development and family functioning. This is achieved by comparing the families interviewed in this study with a comparable set of families interviewed as part of the Millennium Cohort Study who have not experienced Sure Start Local Programmes.

The NESS Impact Study has followed an initial cohort of over 12,500 children and families living in the original Sure Start Local Programme areas. The children and families were interviewed about a range of physical health and well-being measures when the children were nine months, three years and five-years-old. The seven-year-old fieldwork is currently underway. It is not anticipated that the study will be extended beyond this sweep of fieldwork and will come to an end when the seven-year-old results have been reported.

Total funding from the Department to the end of 2010/11 was £14,080,996. The budget for each year was:

	Budget (£)
2000-01	24,186
2001-02	1,008,671
2002-03	1,397,190
2003-04	1,486,919
2004-05	1,758,921
2005-06	1,338,137
2006-07	1,357,937
2007-08	1,423,200
2008-09	1,624,258
2009-10	1,250,577
2010-11	1,411,000
Total	14,080,996

The Millennium Cohort Study

The Millennium Cohort Study was commissioned by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Their funding has been supplemented by a consortium of Government Departments including DfE. The study is following 19,000 children born in the UK in 2000/01 and is tracking their overall development.

There have been two data collections within the last five years, when the children were aged five and seven. The MCS has explored some elements of health and emotional well-being in its wider coverage of family life, child care; child behaviour, school choice, cognitive development; parental employment, income and poverty; neighbourhood and residential mobility; and social capital. The next sweep of the study is planned for 2012 when the children will be 11-years-old. The Department has not yet decided whether to financially support the survey beyond this phase.

Funding from the Department to the end of 2010/11 has amounted to £1,914.103. The budget for each year was:

	Budget (£)
2000-01	100,000
2002-03	200,000
2003-04	200,000
2005-06	361,334
2006-07	530,868
2007-08	4,234
2008-09	233,667
2009-10	239,000
2010-11	45,000
Total	1,914,103

The Effective Pre-school Primary and Secondary Education project

The Effective Pre-school Primary and Secondary Education project (EPPSE) started in 1997. It aimed to identify the impact of pre-school provision on a national sample of children between the ages of three and seven. Since then the Department has funded the research to follow the same sample of 3,000 children through primary school and into secondary school.

The study has investigated both attainment/cognitive and social/behavioural development. Emotional well-being is treated as a behavioural issue through such concepts as independence, self-regulation and pro-social behaviour. Physical health is not addressed other than as a background factor in a child's early years. The focus of the study is on the influence of home, pre-school, primary and secondary school on attainment and behavioural development. The Department has not yet decided whether to fund the study beyond age 16.

Total funding from the Department to the end of 2010/11 was £6,822,956. The budget for each year was:

	Budget (£)
Before 2003	1,756,795
2003-04	505,399
2004-05	587,068
2005-06	508,784
2006-07	547,216
2007-08	601,451
2008-09	706,421
2009-10	769,752
2010-11	840,070
Total	6,822,956

The Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children

The Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) is a sub-regional longitudinal study following 14,000 children since before they were born in1991/92. It is largely funded by the Medical Research Council with this Department and its predecessors contributing funding since 2006 to ensure data relevant to learning and schools were collected. The overall study is very wide ranging, with many health issues assessed as well as family and school experiences at school, perceived abilities in key subjects, self-confidence, transitions into work, adolescent behaviour and body image.

The Department's contract with ALSPAC is almost complete and no decision has been made about further funding.

Total funding from the Department to the end of 2010/11 has been £722,171. The budget for each year was:

	Budget (£)
2006-07	111,762
2007-08	230,749
2008-09	133,218
2009-10	202,804
2010-11	43,638
Total	722,171

Understanding Society

Understanding Society is commissioned and managed by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Their funding has been supplemented by contributions from a number of Government Departments, including DfE.

It is a large-scale household study which aims to track up to 100,000 individuals in 40,000 households across the UK. Each individual in sample households aged 10 years and above is included in the study. Those aged 10 to 15 years are given a separate questionnaire to complete. The study started in 2009 and the third wave of interviews started in early 2011.

The focus of the study is on the household and how each member relates to each other and the questions asked cover a wide spectrum of issues. Questions on emotional well-being and health and nutrition have been asked of respondents aged 10 to 15 in all three waves of interviews to date.

Total funding from the Department was £200,000 (paid in 2010/11). Further contributions are not anticipated.

Free School Meals

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of children who take up their entitlement to free school meals in each *(a)* ethnic and *(b)* religious group. [56508]

Mr Gibb: The information available on the number and percentage of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals in each ethnic group is shown in the following table. The answer includes full and part-time pupils aged five to 15. Information is not available on the proportion of pupils who meet the eligibility criteria but do not make a claim.

Information on pupils' religious group is not collected by this Department.

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1,2,3]: Number and percentage of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals by ethnic group[4,5], January 2010—England

	Pupils aged 5 to 15							
	Maintained primary schools[1]		*State-funded secondary schools[1,2]*		*Special schools[1]*		*Total[1,2,3]*	
	Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals[5]	*Percentage of pupils in each ethnic group eligible for and claiming free school meals (incidence)[6]*	*Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals[5]*	*Percentage of pupils in each ethnic group eligible for and claiming free school meals (incidence)[6]*	*Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals[5]*	*Percentage of pupils in each ethnic group eligible for and claiming free school meals (incidence)[6]*	*Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals[5]*	*Percentage of pupils in each ethnic group eligible for and claiming free school meals (incidence)[6]*
White	415,805	16.4	304,545	13.0	20,835	34.3	741,185	15.0
White British	389,190	16.3	285,665	12.0	20,030	34.4	694,885	14.9
Irish	1,925	18.6	1,815	16.4	80	36.3	3,620	17.8
Traveller of Irish heritage	1,755	60.1	670	61.7	45	65.7	2,470	60.6
Gypsy/Roma	2,670	36.4	1,440	40.3	95	54.2	4,205	38.0
Any other White background	20,265	15.6	15,155	15.6	580	29.1	36,000	15.7
		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Mixed	37,815	26.9	23,080	22.8	1,190	39.9	62,085	25.4
White and Black Caribbean	14,765	34.5	9,640	27.4	505	45.4	24,910	31.5
White and Black African	4,715	29.3	2,570	24.9	130	42.1	7,415	27.8
White and Asian	5,845	19.2	3,585	17.4	155	31.5	9,585	18.6
Any other Mixed background	12,490	24.5	7,285	20.9	400	37.4	20,175	23.2
		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Asian	62,905	20.2	52,780	24.1	1,785	32.1	117,470	21.9
Indian	7,130	8.7	6,855	10.5	210	18.9	14,190	9.6
Pakistani	32,175	24.5	25,295	29.9	1,000	35.4	58,470	26.7
Bangladeshi	17,440	32.3	15,140	41.8	375	46.7	32,950	36.2
Any other Asian background	6,165	14.0	5,495	16.4	205	24.5	11,860	15.2
		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Black	62,795	38.3	42,160	33.3	1,960	47.8	106,915	36.3
Black Caribbean	14,970	33.1	10,110	25.2	545	42.7	25,620	29.6
Black African	40,985	41.4	27,670	38.3	1,115	51.1	59,775	40.2
Any other Black background	6,840	35.1	4,380	31.2	300	46.5	11,520	33.7
		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1,2,3]: Number and percentage of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals by ethnic group[4,5], January 2010—England

	Pupils aged 5 to 15							
	Maintained primary schools[1]		*State-funded secondary schools[1,2]*		*Special schools[3]*		*Total[1,2,3]*	
	Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals[5]	*Percentage of pupils in each ethnic group eligible for and claiming free school meals (incidence)[6]*	*Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals[5]*	*Percentage of pupils in each ethnic group eligible for and claiming free school meals (incidence)[6]*	*Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals[5]*	*Percentage of pupils in each ethnic group eligible for and claiming free school meals (incidence)[6]*	*Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals[5]*	*Percentage of pupils in each ethnic group eligible for and claiming free school meals (incidence)[6]*
Chinese	1,070	9.7	920	8.8	35	21.0	2,030	9.4
		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Any other ethnic group	14,465	30.9	10,880	32.4	325	44.1	25,670	31.6
		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Classified[4]	594,855	18.5	434,365	15.4	26,130	35.2	1,055,355	17.3
		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Unclassified[7]	4,055	18.9	6,240	17.5	305	34.9	10,595	18.3
		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Minority ethnic pupils[8]	205,670	25.0	148,700	24.7	6,100	38.1	360,470	25.0
		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
All pupils[9]	598,915	18.5	440,605	15.4	26,435	35.2	1,065,950	17.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Pupils of compulsory school age and above were classified according to ethnic group. Excludes dually registered pupils.

[5] Includes full and part-time pupils aged five to 15.

[6] The number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals expressed as a percentage of all pupils in each ethnic group, for each school type.

[7] Information refused or not obtained.

[8] Includes all pupils classified as belonging to an ethnic group other than White British.

[9] All pupils aged five to 15.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

School Census

Free School Meals: Cheshire

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children are entitled to free school meals in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Chester West and Cheshire Unitary Authority area and (ii) Halton Borough Council area. [56810]

Mr Gibb: The information available, on pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals, is shown in the following table. The answer includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15.

Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools[1,2]: free school meal eligibility[3,4], as at January 2010, in Cheshire West and Chester and Halton local authorities

	Primary schools[1]			*State-funded secondary schools[1,2]*		
	Number on roll[3,4]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[3,4]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[3,4]*	*Number on roll[3,4]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[3,4]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[3,4]*
Cheshire West and Chester	23,975	3,550	14.8	18,838	2,300	12.2
Halton	9,673	3,050	31.5	7,190	1,873	26.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[4] Includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15.

Source:

School Census

Information on school meal arrangements was published in the Statistical First Release 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2010' available on our Research and Statistics Gateway website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

GCE A-Level

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of GCSE A-level students gained at least three GCSE A-levels at grade A or A* in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English literature, *(c)* further mathematics, *(d)* biological sciences, *(e)* physics, *(f)* chemistry, *(g)* geography, *(h)* history and *(i)* a modern foreign language in (i) comprehensive schools, (ii) selective schools, (iii) independent schools and (iv) sixth form colleges (A) nationally and (B) in each local education authority in the last year for which figures are available. [54699]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 May 2011]*: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Greater Manchester

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what payments his Department and its non-departmental public bodies have made to *(a)* the Manchester College, *(b)* Manchester College for Arts and Technology and *(c)* City College, Manchester since 1997; and for what purpose in each case. [55748]

Mr Gibb: The following payments by the Department for Education, the Young People's Learning Agency and their predecessors have been made to the Manchester College, Manchester College of Arts and Technology and City College, Manchester:

£

DFE and predecessor	*The Manchester College*	*Manchester College of Art and Technology*	*City College, Manchester*
2004-05	0	12,450,051	2,547
2005-06	0	16,185,922	0
2006-07	0	5,087,364	0
2007-08	0	0	0
2008-09	0	0	0
2009-10	0	0	0

£

Young People's Learning Agency and predecessor	*The Manchester College*	*Manchester College of Art and Technology*	*City College, Manchester*
2004-05	0	20,413,155	12,944,364
2005-06	0	20,004,537	19,928,142
2006-07	0	21,281,516	44,665,013
2007-08	0	23,939,267	63,872,196
2008-09	59,232,549	8,793,204	21,586,210
2009-10	111,644,176	0	0

The Department's and predecessors' funding related to course fees for various members of staff undertaking qualifications. The Young People's Learning Agency's and predecessors' funding was for 16-19 education (including European Social Fund monies and funding for Apprenticeships), learner support, capital and offender learning (which includes all offender learning funding—for 16 to 19-year-olds and adults).

In accordance with NAO and departmental policy, records relating to creditors and other financial transaction data are kept for a maximum of six years from the end of the financial year to which they relate and complete data prior to the 2004-05 financial year are no longer available.

Higher Education: Admissions

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children *(a)* in receipt of and *(b)* not in receipt of free school meals in each local education authority area went on to higher education in each year since 2001. [57381]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

The latest available information on the numbers of maintained school pupils by local authority area who were in receipt of free school meals aged 15 and progressed to higher education by age 19 will be placed in the Libraries of the House. Matched higher education data are available only from 2005/06.

Care should be taken when comparing progression rates across local authorities as these are raw figures and are not benchmarked against prior school attainment or other student characteristics that can influence progression rates

Figures for 2008/09 will be available in autumn 2011.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils aged 16 to 18 years in sixth-form colleges and school sixth forms were from highly deprived backgrounds in 2009-10. [56468]

Mr Gibb: Table 1 shows the number and percentage of pupils[1] aged 16 to 18 in sixth-form colleges[2] by the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) deprivation decile.

[1] Includes students who were aged 16 to 18 on 31 August 2009.

[2] Includes all students (full and part-time) recorded on the individualised learner record as being an active student at a sixth-form college on 1 January 2010.

Table 1: Pupils aged 16 to 18 in sixth-form colleges by IDACI decile in January 2010

IDACI decile (%)[1, 2]	*Number of pupils*[3]	*Percentage of pupils*
0-10 (most deprived)	18,090	12.1
10-20	14,480	9.7
20-30	12,300	8.3
30-40	11,790	7.9
40-50	13,040	8.8
50-60	13,740	9.2
60-70	14,530	9.8
70-80	15,780	10.6
80-90	16,260	10.9
90-100 (least deprived)	18,890	12.7
Total	148,880	100

[1] Each super output area in England is given an IDACI score which ranks it between one and 32,482, one being the most deprived.

[2] IDACI bands are based on 2007 IDACI scores.

[3] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Percentages are calculated on pre-rounded data. Individual numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding.

Note:

573 students have been removed from the above table as their IDACI score was unknown.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record (ILR0910_L05_LEARNER).

Table 2 shows the number and percentage of pupils[1] aged 16 to 18 in schools[2] by IDACI deprivation decile.

[1] Includes solely registered and main registration of dually registered pupils aged 16 to 18.

[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges, academies, maintained special schools and non-maintained special schools.

Table 2: Pupils aged 16 to 18 in schools by IDACI decile in January 2010

IDACI decile (%)[1, 2]	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils*
0-10 (most deprived)	34,860	8.3
10-20	34,120	8.2
20-30	35,490	8.5
30-40	37,250	8.9
40-50	39,520	9.5
50-60	41,770	10.0
60-70	43,940	10.5
70-80	47,110	11.3
80-90	50,290	12.0
90-100 (least deprived)	53,490	12.8

Table 2: Pupils aged 16 to 18 in schools by IDACI decile in January 2010

IDACI decile (%)[1, 2]	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils*
Total	417,830	100.0

[1] Each super output area in England is given an IDACI score which ranks it between one and 32,482, one being the most deprived.

[2] IDACI bands are based on 2007 IDACI scores.

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Percentages are calculated on pre-rounded data. Individual numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding.
2. 1,485 pupils have been removed from the table as their IDACI score was unknown.

Source:

January 2010 school census.

Pupils: Reading Berkshire

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children resident in the area covered by Reading local authority have been educated in other local education authority areas in *(a)* 2011 to date and *(b)* each year since 2005. [57012]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* The information requested for the years 2005 to 2010 is provided in the following table. The latest information for 2011 will be published on the Department's website in June.

Pupils[1] resident in Reading local authority educated in schools maintained by other local authorities in each year since 2005

	Number of pupils	*Percentage of pupils*
2005	4,768	28.7
2006	4,793	28.7
2007	4,774	28.4
2008	4,819	26.9
2009	4,744	26.0
2010	4,673	25.4

[1] Includes solely registered and main registration of dually registered pupils.

Notes:

1. Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 attending local authority maintained primary, maintained secondary, city technology colleges and academies. Pupils aged five and over attending maintained special schools and non-maintained special schools. Excludes pupils reported to be boarders.
2. Includes pupils in national curriculum year groups reception to year 11 attending local authority maintained primary, maintained secondary, maintained special schools, non-maintained special schools city technology colleges and academies. Excludes pupils reported to be boarders.

Schools: Catering

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 1280W, on further education: catering, whether he has received reports of any schools that do not have *(a)* kitchens and *(b)* cafeterias on any of their sites. [56366]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* The School Food Trust collects information about kitchen facilities as part of its annual survey of school lunch take up. The following table is adapted from the 2009-10 survey report (table 11, page 22), and shows that just over three-quarters of primary schools and nearly all secondary schools had kitchen facilities (either full production or regeneration/mini kitchens), based on responses from 138 local authorities for primary schools and 135 local authorities for secondary schools. The full survey report can be found at:

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/school-cooks-caterers/reports/fifth-annual-survey-of-take-up-of-school-meals-in-england

Facilities for food preparation in primary[1] and secondary schools in England, 2009-10[2]

Percentage

			No facilities				
	Full production kitchen	*Regen or mini kitchen*	*Hot food transported from another school*	*Hot food transported from another source*	*Sandwich/cold food only*	*FSM only*[3]	*Unknown*
Primary[1, 3]	69.9	7.5	14.1	1.7	3.5	2.4	3.3
Secondary[3]	93.2	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.3	5.7

[1] Primary plus special combined.

[2] Adapted from table 11, fifth annual survey of take up of school lunches in England, School Food Trust, 2010

[3] Percentages will not add to 100% as FSM only is a subset of no facilities: sandwich/cold food only.

Note:

Base: primary 138 local authorities; secondary 135 local authorities.

The survey does not collect information on dining facilities, including cafeterias.

The Department also receives occasional correspondence seeking information about possible sources of funding for building or improving kitchens and dining facilities. Schools may use their own devolved formula capital to support improvements to their catering facilities, and local authorities can also provide capital funding where it is the local priority.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teachers in each region of England have reported physical assaults on them in each of the last three years. [56999]

Mr Gibb: Information is not available in the form requested.

The Department collects information on the reason pupils are excluded from school. Data on reasons for exclusion include information on physical assault, verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against an adult, but not specifically against teachers or school staff.

Information on the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions which have been given the reason 'physical assault against an adult' for 2006/07 to 2008/09 is shown in the table.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: number of fixed period and permanent exclusions for physical assault against an adult[4]: 2006/07 to 2008/09, in England, by region

	2006/07		2007/08		2008/09	
	Number of fixed period exclusions	*Permanent exclusions[4]*	*Number of fixed period exclusions*	*Permanent exclusions[4]*	*Number of fixed period exclusions*	*Permanent exclusions[4]*
North East	780	60	650	60	790	60
North West	2,520	140	2,460	150	2,380	120
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,220	80	2,080	70	1,940	60
East Midlands	1,740	120	1,760	100	1,590	80
West Midlands	2,150	120	1,980	130	1,900	100
East of England	1,670	80	1,480	80	1,470	60
London	2,930	160	2,820	170	2,740	120
Inner London	1,270	70	1,230	70	1,150	40
Outer London	1,660	100	1,600	100	1,590	80
South East	2,880	140	2,980	130	2,940	90
South West	1,730	90	1,680	60	1,450	45
England	18,590	980	17,870	950	17,200	730

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.

Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts as numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census

The latest available data on exclusions were published in the Statistical First Release 'Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2008/09' on 29 July 2010 at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000942/index.shtml.

Schools: Finance

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department provided to maintained schools for the teaching of *(a)* history, *(b)* geography and *(c)* religious education in each of the last five years. [55821]

Mr Gibb: Schools' baseline funding includes provision for them to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum. No specific funding allocation was made on top of this for the teaching of history, geography and religious education.

Teachers

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teachers there are per head of population. [56483]

Mr Gibb: In January 2009 the headcount of full and part-time teachers in service in publicly funded schools in England was 502,500. This is approximately 1.0% of the population in England. These are the most recent comparable figures available.

Teachers: Training

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much per capita his Department spent on teacher training in each of the last five years. [56478]

Mr Gibb: The information is not available in the form requested. The following tables show the funding paid out by the Training and Development Agency for Schools for initial teacher training and the registrations of new entrants to mainstream and employment-based training routes (including Teach First).

Funding

£000

		Financial year				
		2009-10	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Provider funding	ITT provider funding	264,729	253,467	256,545	258,802	242,223
	Primary modern foreign languages	3,268	3,457	2,038	2,293	1,010
	Employment-based routes funding	88,333	87,222	92,986	88,273	87,074
	Teach First	7,998	4,207	4,040	1,927	1,307
Trainee funding	Training bursaries	157,303	149,383	170,160	165,900	149,993

Funding

£000

		Financial year				
		2009-10	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
	Secondary Shortage Subject Scheme	0	0	749	496	4,928
	Access to learning funds	48	5	91	86	111
	The Golden Hello scheme	29,662	29,067	28,215	27,954	27,390
	Total	551,341	526,808	554,824	545,731	514,036

Registrations

£000

	Academic year				
	2009/10	*2008/09*	*2007/08*	*2006/07*	*2005/06*
Mainstream undergraduate	7,920	7,690	7,620	7,960	8,230
Mainstream postgraduate	25,110	23,530	23,730	24,510	25,050
EBITT (including Teach First)	6,460	6,590	7,010	7,370	7,220

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department and its predecessor allocated to each further education institution for the further education of those over the age of 24 in each of the last five years. [56698]

Mr Hayes: In November 2010 the coalition Government published "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" which set out the eligibility criteria for Government funding for further education and skills and the budget available for 2011-12.

This Government have introduced a single Adult Skills Budget for provision for adults aged 19 and over, enabling colleges and training organisations to offer the range and balance of programmes, from basic skills to higher level skills, in the mode of delivery that will best meet the needs of learners, employers and communities.

The previous Government provided funding for participation to further education institutions split between two key budgets—Adult Learner Responsive and Employer Responsive—and planned by programme and level of provision. These plans did not allocate funds by age group.

Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the performance of the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre in promoting and supporting UK manufacturing. [57316]

Mr Willetts: Manufacturing is a priority area of activity for the Technology Strategy Board. The performance of the High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre established by it will therefore be monitored and assessed, on an ongoing basis, in the context of the centre's contribution to the wider programme of work being taken forward by the Technology Strategy Board.

Together with the Technology Strategy Board, we will also monitor more specific measures including the ability of the centre to leverage private sector contract funding; attract grant funding from EU and national research programmes; the number of businesses they support and create; and the nature and scale of their interactions with the knowledge base.

The centre is comprised of a group of seven existing research and technology centres including the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC), situated in Rotherham.

Apprentices

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of individuals over the age of 24 years who would be eligible to pay fees for apprenticeships in academic year 2013-14 under his proposals. [56702]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* In November 2010 the coalition Government published "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" which set out the planned changes to the entitlements to full funding further education and skills for adults in England. This document also set out the Government's plan to expand apprenticeships and introduce fee loans for the 2013/14 academic year for adults aged 24 and over starting qualifications at level 3 or above, providing access to £398 million of resource for teaching and learning by the end of this spending review. At level 2, apprenticeships are currently co-funded with the state and the employer both contributing. This will continue to be the case in the 2013/14 academic year.

The Apprenticeships programme is demand-led and so it is not possible to predict levels of participation in 2013/14. The Statistical First Release[1] provides the latest data on the proportion of starts and completions on apprenticeships by age (under 19, 19 to 24 and 25+) and level (intermediate, advanced and higher).

[1] http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/3AEFF9BC-8E53-41A1-8BCA-385DF0DB12D3/0/SFR_March11_Published_May_Updatepdf.pdf

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether apprenticeships for those over the age of 24 years will be subject to further education fees in the 2013-14 academic year. [56703]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* As set out in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" in November 2010, from the 2013/14 academic year the Government will introduce loans for those aged 24 and above studying for qualifications at level 3 and above. For advanced apprenticeships taken by those aged 24 and above, it will be assumed that employers will continue to make a contribution as at present to the cost of the apprenticeship, and that the individual will take out a loan to cover the cost borne by the provider.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to his Department's strategy document, Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth, what assumptions he has made of the proportion of further education fees paid by those over the age of 24 years undertaking an apprenticeship that will be allocated to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the provider of further education and *(c)* the employer. [56885]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 23 May 2011]:* As set out in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" in November 2010, from the 2013/14 academic year the Government will introduce loans for those aged 24 and above studying for qualifications at level 3 and above. For advanced apprenticeships taken by those aged 24 and above, it will be assumed that employers will continue to contribute to the apprenticeship as at present, and the individual will draw down a loan to cover the cost borne by the provider. The up-front cost of the loan will be met by the Government, and repayment terms for the individual will mirror those being adopted for HE student finance, with an income threshold of £21,000 for repayment to begin, and write off outstanding loan amounts after 30 years.

Bakery Products

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make an assessment of the effect of below-cost selling of bread on employment conditions in the baking industry. [57346]

Mr Davey: Matters related to below-cost selling fall to the competition authorities to investigate.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) on what date special advisers in his Department last used the Government car pool to travel in an official capacity; and on how many occasions a special adviser in his Department has travelled to their home address using the Government car pool since May 2010; [56087]

(2) how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56097]

Mr Davey: There are no civil servants or special advisers in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills entitled to the use of a car from the Government car pool.

The use of official cars and taxis by civil servants, including special advisers, is governed by the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

Costs of travel undertaken by special advisers could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Employment Agencies

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether limited company contractors who are in business on their own account fall within the scope of the Agency Workers Regulations 2010. [R] [56704]

Mr Davey: Under the Agency Workers Regulations 2010 the definition of an agency worker excludes those who are in business on their own account where the status of the hirer is that of a client or customer of a "profession or business undertaking"—where there is a business to business relationship. Simply putting earnings through a limited company would not in itself put the individuals beyond the possible scope of the regulations.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has any plans to review the operation of the Agency Workers Regulations 2010 and its associated guidance. [R] [56705]

Mr Davey: A review of the agency workers directive will be carried out by the European Commission, in consultation with member states and social partners at Community level, by 5 December 2013. In addition BIS will be closely monitoring the impact of the agency workers regulations in the UK and will have conducted a post-implementation review by December 2013. The main source of information for the formal evaluation and ongoing monitoring is likely to be the Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey but other surveys and research may also be relevant carried out by Government or other bodies.

English Language: Universities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with their counterparts in the Home Department on the effects of English language requirements on universities in the academic year 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [57302]

Mr Willetts: I am in regular contact with the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), to discuss migration issues affecting universities and colleges, including the impact of the tier 4 visa regulation changes that came into effect in April this year. Similarly BIS officials continue to meet regularly with officials in the UK Border Agency. The higher education sector has made very clear to us all their concerns about the implementation of the new English language requirements mid-way through the recruitment cycle for the next academic year.

Export Credit Guarantees

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much debt each country owes to the Export Credits Guarantee Department; and what the expected final payment date is in each case. [56411]

Mr Davey: Debt owed by sovereign Governments to the Export Credits Guarantee Department as at 28 April is listed by country in the following table. An expected final payment date, where this has been agreed, is shown.

Country	*Agreed final payment date*	*Total debt (£ million)*
Antigua and Barbuda	1 March 2024	1.46
Argentina	—	43.25
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 December 2021	1.32
Congo, DR	—	19.31
Cote D'Ivoire	1 August 2026	21.00
Cuba	—	187.18
Dominica	—	6.28
Ecuador	15 September 2021	32.48
Egypt	1 January 2024	100.07
Grenada	1 July 2019	1.94
Guinea	1 January 2033	4.30
Indonesia	1 June 2021	445.96
Iran	—	28.44
Iraq	1 January 2028	290.18
Kenya	30 June 2020	16.74
Korea, DPR	—	5.86
Myanmar	—	53.06
Pakistan	30 November 2024	5.81
Serbia	22 March 2024	178.65
Seychelles	30 June 2027	1.06
Somalia	—	48.37
Sudan	—	663.68
Vietnam	15 January 2017	7.07
Zimbabwe	—	190.34
Total		2,353.81

Fossil Fuels: Export Credit Guarantees

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the annual carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel projects in respect of which a guarantee has been issued by the Export Credits Guarantee Department since May 2010. [57365]

Mr Davey: The Export Credits Guarantee Department's (ECGD) policy is to report the greenhouse gas emissions of category A and category B projects as defined by the 2007 OECD "Council Recommendation On Common Approaches on the Environment And Officially Supported Export Credits" where emissions during the operations phase are estimated to be above 100,000 tonnes CO_2e per annum. The information is published in ECGD's Annual Review and Resource Accounts.

Since May 2010, ECGD has supported export contracts for two such projects: the Portovaya gas compressor station in Russia and the Kayan petrochemical complex in Saudi Arabia, for which the estimated annual greenhouse gas emissions are 1.0 million tonnes CO_2e and 5.9 million tonnes CO_2e respectively.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011 to the hon. Member for Altrincham and Sale, *Official Report*, columns 712-13W, on higher education: admissions, whether the Higher Education Statistics Agency collects information on *(a)* the number of students who previously attended independent schools, *(b)* the drop-out rate of such students from higher education and *(c)* degree results of such students. [54045]

Mr Willetts: The previous school type of higher education students is collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) via the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). This information is collected for full-time undergraduate students who apply through UCAS. Institutions are encouraged to provide this information for students who do not apply through UCAS but coverage is not complete.

HESA publish non-continuation rates (Table 3) and HE entrant numbers (Table 1) on their website

www.hesa.ac.uk/pi

broken down at HEI level. However, they do not publish their non-continuation rates by school type and the entrant numbers reflect participation rates for young people entering university from state schools and colleges.

BIS analysts have used the information HESA hold to show degree classifications for qualifiers who are recorded as previously attending an independent school. To minimise non-response, coverage has been restricted to UK domiciled full-time first degree qualifiers. For this group of students, 13% have missing or unknown previous school type information.

UK domiciled full-time first degree qualifiers who previously attended an independent school by degree classification UK higher education institutions. Academic year 2009/10

Degree classification	*Number*	*Percentage of total classified*
Degree	23,975	—
Of which:		
First Class	3,725	16
Upper Second	14,370	60
Lower Second	5,060	21
Third/Pass	820	3

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five, proportions are based on pre-rounded figures. Certain qualifications gained at first degree level are not subject to classification of the award, notably medical and general degrees. These together with ordinary degrees and aegrotat qualifications will be excluded from this analysis.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Estimates produced by Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) analysts indicate that there were 30,500 young entrants to full-time first degree courses in UK higher education institutions (HEIs) from independent schools. Some 4% of these young entrants were no longer in an HEI in the following academic year.

Higher Education: Finance

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what support will be available under the new student finance system to those considering leaving higher education because of changes to their families' financial circumstances; [54507]

(2) what measures are in place to ensure that support is provided to those not estranged from their parents whose parents withhold financial support from their university education; [54508]

(3) what plans he has to ensure that the needs of those who are not estranged from their parents but whose parents refuse to contribute towards the cost of their higher education are met by the new student finance system. [54509]

Mr Willetts: All eligible full-time students are able to take out an up-front student loan to finance their tuition costs and a loan to help towards their living costs, regardless of their household income. This will remain the case when the Government's new finance arrangements for higher education are implemented in September 2012.

The Government have announced that up-front tuition loans will also be available for new students starting full-time distance learning and part-time courses from September 2012 onwards, regardless of their household income.

All full-time students can apply for means-tested grants to help towards their living costs. A proportion of the loan for living costs entitlement is also means-tested.

In those cases where a student is not assessed to receive a full grant, the Government ask students to seek a contribution from their parents—or in the case of independent students, their husband, wife or partner. The support system operates on the assumption that these family members are willing to provide a financial contribution towards the student's living costs.

Students facing particular financial hardship can also apply for help from the discretionary Access to Learning Fund through their university or college.

The income assessment for means-tested support is usually determined on the basis of the student's household income for the financial year two years prior to the financial year in which they make their application for student finance. If a student's household income in the financial year in which they make their application for student finance is likely to be at least 15% less than that used in the initial assessment, a student can ask for their entitlement to be calculated using the lower household income.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of the current economic situation on companies who are not represented by local enterprise partnerships. [56353]

Mr Prisk: No assessment has been made of the effects of the current economic situation on companies who are not represented by local enterprise partnerships. Currently 94% of all active enterprises are covered by a local enterprise partnership and we are continuing to work with new Partnerships as they develop their proposals.

The Department is in the process of putting in place the capacity to collect information on current business conditions across the country which will be coordinated centrally where that is appropriate. These activities include the now up and running BIS local offices and a regular national business survey which should be able to track changes in business conditions over time at subnational levels.

Manufacturing Industries

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that sufficient *(a)* school and college leavers and *(b)* graduates have the skills to support growth in the manufacturing sector. [56872]

Mr Hayes: Manufacturing is vital to achieving strong, balanced and sustainable growth and we are committed to improving skills at all levels to support that growth. In schools we have introduced the English Baccalaureate which will help to drive up participation and attainment rates in mathematics and science, and we will also provide additional support to improve take up. At technician level we are expanding demand-led apprenticeships to address skill needs at intermediate and associate professional level, including manufacturing, and we are growing the number of higher apprenticeships with a focus on advanced manufacturing.

Apprenticeships provide an important vocational route to help people move into higher-level skills development and give their employers the opportunity to contribute. We are looking much more ambitiously at creating clear progression routes for apprentices through to graduate, post graduate and professional level qualifications. In higher education we continue to provide additional funding for science, technology and engineering degrees and want universities to ensure that students are aware of the benefits of undertaking these subjects. We want businesses to engage more with universities in course design and work placements so that businesses such as manufacturing employers can help develop courses that will provide attractive employment to sustain and strengthen their competitiveness.

Press: Competition

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) on when the OFT review of its decision to extend the exemption afforded to newspaper and magazine distributors from section 131 of the Enterprise Act 2002 will take place; and if he will make a statement. [56662]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has not had any meetings with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) relating to newspaper and magazine suppliers. Any competition review of this market is a matter solely for the OFT.

Royal Mail

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with Royal Mail Group on revaluation of the colleague shares scheme. [57232]

Mr Davey: ColleagueShare is a Company incentive scheme set up in 2007 by Royal Mail in agreement with Government. The Department, therefore, has had discussions with Royal Mail about the operation of the scheme including their valuation of the ColleagueShares.

The final value of the ColleagueShares will not, however, be known until the end of the scheme in 2012.

So far, dividends of £1,600 have been paid to ColleagueShare holders and the scheme is expected to have paid out £2,200 to most members by the time it closes in March 2012.

Small Businesses

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effects of regulation on small businesses in England. [56957]

Mr Prisk: In November last year, the Better Regulation Executive published a report called 'Lightening the Load' which looked at the impact of regulation on the UK's smallest businesses. Through interviews with 500 micro-businesses (businesses with fewer than 10 employees), the report provided an important insight into the issues that these businesses face in dealing with regulation.

The Government also regularly engage with organisations which represent small businesses to discuss the issues which are of importance to their members, of which regulation is one.

'Lightening the Load' is available on the BIS website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/better-regulation/docs/l/10-1251-lightening-the-load-regulatory-impact-smallest-businesses.pdf

Technology Transfer: Developing Countries

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to Article 66.2 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, what steps his Department is taking to promote technology transfer of environmentally sound technologies to least developed countries. [56388]

Mr Davey: Article 66.2 of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) states that:

> "Developed country members shall provide incentives to enterprises and institutions in their territories for the purpose of promoting and encouraging technology transfer to least-developed country members in order to enable them to create a sound and viable technological base."

It does not specifically mention environmentally sound technologies.

The UK, as part of the EU, reports annually to the WTO on its implementation of Article 66.2. The latest report includes support for: the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF), Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DelPHE), and Business Call to Action (BCtA). These initiatives have included projects on climate and the environment. For example, in November 2010 the AECF held a competition on 'Renewable Energy and Adaptation to Climate Technologies' to seek private-sector partners for projects in East Africa.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the UK Space Agency, *(c)* Companies House, *(d)* the Insolvency Service, *(e)* the National Measurements Office and *(f)* the UK Intellectual Property Office are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56433]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) (excluding UK Trade and Investment), has two full-time trade union representatives. BIS follows the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service's Code of Practice 'Time off for Trades Union Duties and Activities':

http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2391

In accordance with this, the Department grants facilities time to 35 staff for industrial relations and trade union activities. The majority of these have an allocation of 24 days or less. Thirty four members of staff are paid more than £25,900 (full-time equivalent) annually. The cost of the amount of facility time the Department allocates is £356,557 for the financial year 2010-11.

I have asked the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office, UK Space Agency and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 19 May 2011:

The Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question concerning the number of staff in The Insolvency Service who are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available.

In 2010/11, two staff were employed as full time trade union representatives and twenty three staff were awarded facility time (time off to undertake trade union activities in accordance with the ACAS Code of Practice) in connection with employee relations or trade union activity. Of these 25 staff, 13 were paid over £25, 900 annually, but not, necessarily, wholly for their trade union work. The overall salary cost for such duties, in 2010/11, was £79,124.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 19 May 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 16 May 2011, UIN56433 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has one member of staff who works as a full time Trade Union representative and eleven members of staff who work part time on Trade Union activities. Of these staff two are paid more than £25,900 annually. The cost for the financial year 2010/11 of employing staff on such duties was £61,331.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 19 May 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 16/5/2011 [reference 2010/5431] to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how many staff are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available.

The NMO does not have any staff working full time as trade union representatives but does have 3 members of staff who are able to claim "facility time" for undertaking union activities in relation to the representative machinery within the Agency. All of these members of staff earn more than £25,900 per annum. According to the Agency's time recording system, 42 hours were spent on such activities in the Financial Year to 31 March 2011, at an estimated cost of £2,105. As NMO earned some external income as well as its funding from Government, not all of this is a cost falling on the public purse.

Letter from John Alty, dated 18 May 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 16th May 2011, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) is an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). The IPO does not employ full time trade union officials, but four of its employees are entitled to work part time on trade union activities. Three of these have a full time equivalent annual salary over £25,900. In 2010/11 the cost to the IPO of employing these staff on trade union duties was approximately £13,785. IPO is a trading fund so does not rely on public funds.

Letter from Dr David Williams, dated 19 May 2011:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills asking how many staff (a) his Department (b) the British National Space Agency, (c) Companies House, (d) the Insolvency Service, (e) the National Measurements Office and (f) the UK Intellectual Property Office are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. (56433)

In response to your question, no staff from the UK Space Agency are employed either full or part time on trade union activities. Regarding the question of eligibility, anyone who is a union member may be eligible to be employed on Trade Union activities but we do not hold details of which staff are trade union members.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 19 May 2011:

Thank you for your parliamentary question addressed to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking how many staff in the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available.

Please be advised that in the Agency:

there are no trade union representatives entitled to work full-time;

there are at present 28 part-time union representatives, 24 of whom are paid over £25,900; and

the total annual cost to the public purse of employing such staff is £247,131.63 which comprises £190,101.25 salary costs that the Agency pays for trade union representatives' facility time and £57,030.38 for 'on costs' in respect of employer's national insurance and pension contributions.

The following table shows an anonymised breakdown of cost for each of the 28 trade union representatives.

PCSIcost breakdown as at 31 March 2011

	Allocation					*Facility time*
Trade union rep roles	*% FTE*	*Actual FTE*	*Allocation/week*	*Days/week*	*Annual salary (£)*	*Total costs (£)*
1	80	0.80	4.00	0.80	47,173.00	37,738.40
2	43	0.43	2.15	0.43	33,050.00	14,211.50
3	43	0.43	2.15	0.43	35,753,00	15,373.79
4	32	0.32	1.60	0.32	24,346,00	7,790.72
5	43	0.43	2.15	0.43	51,688,00	22,225.84
6	18	0.18	0.90	0.18	47,006.00	8,461.08
7	45	0.45	2.25	0.45	27,863.00	12,538.35
8	27	0.27	1.35	0.27	24,508.00	6,617.16
9	18	0.18	0.90	0.18	39,045.00	7,028.10
10	10	0.10	0.50	0.10	51,688.00	5,168.80
11	35	0.35	1.75	0.35	21,463.00	7,512.05
12	10	0.10	0.50	0.10	53,027.00	5,302.70
13	10	0.10	0.50	0.10	50,209.00	5,020.90
14	18	0.18	0.90	0.18	19,942.00	3,589.56
15	8	0.08	0.40	0.08	32,685.00	2,614.80
16	10	0.10	0.50	0.10	29,611.00	2,961.10
17	10	0.10	0.50	0.10	46,162.00	4,616.20
18	5	0.05	0.25	0.05	28,632.00	1,431.60
19	5	0.05	0.25	0.05	46,045.00	2,302.25
20	5	0.05	0.25	0.05	33,182.00	1,659.10
21	5	0.05	0.25	0.05	39,236.00	1,961.80
22	5	0.05	0.25	0.05	51,352.00	2,567.60
23	5	0.05	0.25	0.05	28,917.00	1,445.85
24	5	0.05	0.25	0.05	29,611.00	1,480.55
25	5	0.05	0.25	0.05	51,688.00	2,584.40
26	5	0.05	0.25	0.05	48,029.00	2,401.45
27	5	0.05	0.25	0.05	33,404.00	1,670.20
28	5	0.05	0.25	0.05	36,508.00	1,825.40
				5.15	1,061,823.00	190,101.25

Universities

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department has provided to universities on the promotion of community involvement; and if he will make a statement. [56958]

Mr Willetts: Higher education institutions (HEIs), as independent bodies, set their own priorities for community involvement. They already engage with their communities in many ways, including providing access to sports facilities, museums, theatres and galleries; community volunteering by staff and students; and creating lifelong learning opportunities for a diverse body of learners. The Higher Education-Business and Community Interaction (HE-BCI) Survey shows that 0.75 million people attended free public lectures in 2008-09 and over 1.6 million paid to attend performances at UK HEIs.

The Department has not issued guidance promoting community involvement but has provided, via the Higher Education Funding Council for England, £52 million up to 2008-09 under the HE Active Community Fund to help promote staff and student volunteering. This has helped to establish volunteering as a strong presence in the sector, and many volunteering opportunities available in universities involve links with local communities and groups.

Universities: Overseas Students

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many offers of places in British universities made to students from outside the EU for academic year 2011-12 had been accepted by 20 March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [57268]

Mr Willetts: At 21 March 2011, there were 3,751 applicants domiciled outside the EU who had firmly accepted offers to higher education courses at UK institutions, via the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). This is out of a total of 42,729 non-EU domiciled applicants at the same date.

This includes applicants who had been given both conditional and unconditional offers for places. It also includes applicants who have chosen to apply for deferred entry.

Those applicants who have not given firm replies will include those who were not obliged to give a reply to any offers received by this point in the cycle, in addition to those applicants who at that point had not received replies to all of their choices, or whose main scheme choices were all unsuccessful.

SCOTLAND

Housing Benefit

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people in *(a)* Fife and *(b)* Glenrothes receive (i) housing benefit and (ii) local housing allowance. [53151]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

As at January 2011, there were 30,780 housing benefit claimants in the Fife local authority, of which 4,600 were assessed under the local housing allowance rules. In the Westminster constituency of Glenrothes, there were 10,060 housing benefit claimants in total, of which 1,550 customers were assessed under the local housing allowance rules.

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single persons or couples, and are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.

3. Local housing allowance tenants (LHA) may include a small number of non-LHA cases making a new claim since 7 April 2008.

4. This will include recipients in caravan accommodation.

5. The data incorporate the local authority changes from 1 April 2009.

6. SHBE is, a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and January 2011 is the most recently available release.

7. Tenure type does not include recipients with unknown tenure type.

8. Local housing allowance was introduced in the Private Deregulated sector from April 2008.

9. Parliamentary constituency is based on the address of the HB recipient and are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

10. Note that local authority data are based on the authority administering the benefit claim. It is possible for the recipient to reside in a different LA to the one administering their HB/CTB claim. Therefore it may not always be possible to make direct comparisons between parliamentary constituency and local authority data

11. Parliamentary constituency breakdowns are now available for January 2011 housing benefit and council tax benefit caseloads. There are at present no plans to repeat the exercise for any further time periods.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Prosecutions: Northamptonshire

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Attorney-General in which three categories of offence the Crown Prosecution Service has brought the highest proportion of successful prosecutions in Northamptonshire in the last year for which figures are available. [57015]

The Attorney-General: During the year ending March 2011, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in Northamptonshire had an overall successful prosecution outcome of 86.9%. In line with national performance, the three categories of offence that brought the highest proportion of successful prosecutions were:

	Percentage
Drugs offences	96.7
Motoring offences	92.1
Theft offences	90.1

HEALTH

Bowel Cancer: Health Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on bowel cancer patients of travelling long distances on public transport to hospital appointments; and if he will make a statement. [56750]

Paul Burstow: We have made no specific assessment of the effects of travelling long distances on public transport to hospital appointments on bowel cancer patients. However, we know anecdotally that many cancer patients want to receive treatment closer to home.

In 2007 the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group report "Radiotherapy: developing a world class service for England", recommended that, where possible, patients should not travel more than 45 minutes for radiotherapy treatment. This recommendation followed feedback received at a patient workshop. In 2009 the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group report, "Chemotherapy Services in England: Ensuring Quality and Safety", recommended that chemotherapy services should be localised where clinically appropriate and that patients' views on the experience of receiving chemotherapy should be sought and acted upon. Both advisory groups feature patients in their membership.

However, as acknowledged in "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", patients may wish to choose different providers for different forms of treatment and care and this will impact on travelling times. For example, a patient may be prepared to travel further for surgery from a specialist provider with better outcomes, but may wish to receive treatments such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy closer to their home. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Bolton have been invited to attend breast screening by Royal Bolton Hospital in each of the last five years. [57083]

Paul Burstow: The information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the number of women aged 45 and over invited by Bolton, Bury and Rochdale Breast Screening Unit for the last five years is shown in the following table:

Women invited

	Number
2005-06	27,230
2006-07	28,527
2007-08	29,606
2008-09	31,580
2009-10	29,815

Notes:

1. The number invited relates to women with screening status classifications of 'first call', i.e., first invitation for routine screening, or 'routine recall', who are sent invitations.

2. Early recalls are not included in the table and neither are general practitioner and self-referrals to the screening programme. Early recalls are non-routine invitations at less than the standard screening interval.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Breast Cancer: Surgery

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women undergoing surgery for breast cancer aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59, *(c)* 60 to 69, *(d)* 70 to 79 and *(e)* over 80 years in each (i) cancer network and (ii) primary care trust were offered immediate breast reconstruction surgery in the latest year for which figures are available. [56783]

Paul Burstow: The information is not available in the format requested.

The National Mastectomy and Breast Reconstruction Audit collected data on women having a mastectomy and immediate and delayed reconstruction surgery between 1 January 2008 and 31 March 2009. There are four audit reports and these are available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/mbrreports

It is important to note that although all eligible English national health service trusts participated in the audit, not all eligible cases were submitted to the audit, and not all of the cases submitted had complete clinical data. The audit only collected data on the surgeries described above; it did not include all breast cancer surgery, such as breast conservation surgery. Some women who initially have breast conservation surgery will have a further procedure, which may be a mastectomy with or without breast reconstruction.

The Second Annual Report reported that of cases submitted to the audit, 48% of mastectomy patients were offered immediate reconstruction. The audit collected data by NHS trust and cancer network.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59, *(c)* 60 to 69, *(d)* 70 to 79 and *(e)* over 80 years had mastectomies in each (i) cancer network and (ii) primary care trust in the latest year for which figures are available. [56803]

Paul Burstow: The information is not available in the format requested. A table of information on count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) for females, where there was a primary or secondary procedure or intervention of mastectomy, has been placed in the Library.

A table of information on count of FCEs for females where there was a primary or secondary procedure or intervention of mastectomy and a primary diagnosis of breast cancer has also been placed in the Library.

The information is provided by primary care trust of residence and for the requested age groups. Information is not available by cancer networks. The latest available information is for 2009-10.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in Bolton have accessed drugs through the Cancer Drugs Fund to date. [57082]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not hold the information requested.

The Cancer Drugs Fund was launched on 1 April 2011 to help thousands of cancer patients access the drugs their clinicians believe will help them. We made an additional £50 million available to strategic health authorities in 2010-11 which has already helped over 2,400 patients in England to access the cancer drugs their clinicians recommended.

Cancer: Health Services

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the National Cancer Information Network's equality metrics; and how these metrics are being utilised by his Department to tackle cancer inequalities; [56546]

(2) what progress his Department has made in providing information to pathfinder GP consortia on the equality and inequality characteristics of their cancer populations. [56659]

Paul Burstow: The National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) established the Equalities Portal in March 2010, bringing together a range of equality metrics. The aim is to support local services in commissioning cancer services that are appropriate for their local populations. Since its launch the Portal has been accessed over 2,150 times. The content of the Portal is currently arranged by primary care trust (PCT), and the NCIN is committed to ensure the portal reflects the new commissioning arrangements.

The National Cancer Action Team (NCAT) is raising the importance of reducing inequalities and promoting equality in their early discussions with emerging pathfinder general practice (GP) consortia. The NCAT will be discussing with them what equality metrics might be useful as part of the information analyses that the NCIN can provide for GP consortia.

Carers

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of carers have received a carer's assessment under the provisions of the Carers Act 1995 in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area. [56462]

Paul Burstow: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects and publishes information on the number of carers in receipt of an assessment (separately and jointly) with the cared-for person. The proportion of carers receiving an assessment cannot be provided as the total number of carers, including those that are not known to a local authority, is not collected centrally.

The following table shows the data available for the number of carers in England who received an assessment or review separately or jointly in 2009-10, by region and local authority area.

The number of carers in England who received an assessment or review separately or jointly in 2009-10, by region and local authority area— England 2009-10

Government office region	*Number of carers assessed or reviewed separately*	*Number of carers assessed or reviewed jointly with the client*	*Total*
England	148,660	266,645	415,305
North East	7,390	23,110	30,505
Durham	360	4,220	4,580
Northumberland	720	3,805	4,525
Darlington	90	1,065	1,155
Hartlepool	1,970	0	1,970
Middlesbrough	1,955	0	1,955
Redcar and Cleveland	1,020	180	1,195
Stockton-on-Tees	415	960	1,370
Gateshead	70	1,950	2,020
Newcastle upon Tyne	40	1,570	1,610
North Tyneside	235	2,560	2,790
South Tyneside	360	1,685	2,045
Sunderland	160	5,125	5,285
North-West	21,055	41,010	62,060
Cumbria	1,610	2,935	4,540
Lancashire	2,400	6,450	8,850
Blackburn	215	1,155	1,370
Blackpool	180	635	815
Cheshire East	405	1,175	1,580
Cheshire West and Chester	515	2,250	2,765
Halton	1,155	385	1,540
Warrington	220	2,325	2,545
Bolton	870	1,335	2,205
Bury	1,050	0	1,050
Knowsley	815	915	1,735
Liverpool	1,120	2,255	3,380
Manchester	2,455	780	3,235
Oldham	140	1,395	1,540
Rochdale	430	2,380	2,810
Salford	290	2,410	2,705
Sefton	1,170	2,665	3,830
St Helens	70	2,260	2,325
Stockport	175	2,285	2,460
Tameside	1,865	2,190	4,055
Trafford	2,530	15	2,545
Wigan	870	1,110	1,980
Wirral	505	1,700	2,200
Yorkshire and the Humber	17,690	22,775	40,465
North Yorkshire	3,910	2,095	6,005
East Riding	2,395	205	2,600
Kingston-upon-Hull	170	2,695	2,860
North East Lincolnshire	1,290	180	1,470
North Lincolnshire	950	40	990
York	640	835	1,475
Barnsley	385	1,290	1,680
Bradford	120	3,770	3,890
Calderdale	35	1,905	1,940
Doncaster	555	1,220	1,775
Kirklees	2,335	1,625	3,960
Leeds	2,080	1,395	3,475
Rotherham	565	1,465	2,035
Sheffield	970	3,375	4,345
Wakefield	1,285	685	1,970
East Midlands	12,720	15,260	27,980
Derbyshire	1,125	3,850	4,975
Leicestershire	520	4,400	4,920
Lincolnshire	2,410	840	3,250
Northamptonshire	3,450	40	3,490
Nottinghamshire	3,855	2,340	6,195
Derby	320	1,460	1,780
Leicester	795	1,135	1,930
Nottingham	95	490	585
Rutland	145	705	850
West Midlands	20,440	25,770	46,205
Staffordshire	2,220	1,760	3,980
Warwickshire	1,305	5,535	6,840
Worcestershire	2,340	2,305	4,645
Shropshire	1,645	495	2,140
Herefordshire	885	380	1,265

The number of carers in England who received an assessment or review separately or jointly in 2009-10, by region and local authority area— England 2009-10

Government office region	*Number of carers assessed or reviewed separately*	*Number of carers assessed or reviewed jointly with the client*	*Total*
Stoke-on-Trent	425	1,865	2,290
Telford and Wrekin	1,340	225	1,565
Birmingham	5,010	4,935	9,945
Coventry	770	860	1,630
Dudley	640	3,245	3,885
Sandwell	1,665	355	2,020
Solihull	750	1,020	1,775
Walsall	495	2,265	2,760
Wolverhampton	950	510	1,460
South West	12,465	36,710	49,175
Devon	710	6,460	7,170
Dorset	1,685	885	2,570
Gloucestershire	1,040	5,215	6,255
Somerset	1,050	5,805	6,855
Bath and North East Somerset	520	945	1,470
Bournemouth	395	905	1,300
Bristol	1,225	3,835	5,060
Cornwall	1,245	2,385	3,630
Isles of Scilly	5	5	10
North Somerset	615	2,525	3,140
Plymouth	1,240	1,035	2,275
Poole	505	865	1,375
South Gloucestershire	540	1,720	2,260
Swindon	465	495	960
Torbay	370	1,640	2,010
Wiltshire	850	1,990	2,840
Eastern	17,085	24,545	41,630
Cambridgeshire	2,470	0	2,470
Essex	4,360	7,895	12,250
Hertfordshire	1,670	4,465	6,135
Norfolk	3,025	3,390	6,415
Suffolk	2,790	755	3,540
Bedford	415	940	1,355
Central Bedfordshire	770	3,155	3,925
Luton	505	705	1,210
Peterborough	585	1,245	1,830
Southend	360	1,675	2,040
Thurrock	135	325	460
London	20,240	27,775	48,015
Camden	710	605	1,315
Greenwich	430	1,300	1,730
Hackney	545	590	1,130
Hammersmith and Fulham	480	600	1,075
Islington	550	585	1,135
Kensington and Chelsea	855	790	1,650
Lambeth	1,370	520	1,890
Lewisham	655	1,640	2,290
Southwark	90	635	725
Tower Hamlets	1,020	845	1,865
Wandsworth	0	695	695
Westminster	285	915	1,200
City of London	20	10	30
Barking and Dagenham	1,235	850	2,085
Barnet	485	1,655	2,140
Bexley	630	1,150	1,775
Brent	1,280	340	1,625
Bromley	495	2,070	2,570
Croydon	665	515	1,180
Ealing	700	995	1,690
Enfield	345	1,760	2,100
Haringey	1,105	0	1,105
Harrow	1,785	1,475	3,260
Havering	290	1,015	1,310
Hillingdon	470	500	970
Hounslow	570	945	1,515
Kingston-upon-Thames	65	1,020	1,085
Merton	370	430	800
Newham	630	890	1,515
Redbridge	285	985	1,270
Richmond upon Thames	280	950	1,230
Sutton	855	385	1,240
Waltham Forest	700	120	820
South East	19,580	49,690	69,270
Buckinghamshire	2,600	0	2,600
East Sussex	3,100	830	3,930
Hampshire	3,390	6,565	9,955
Kent	2,615	20,880	23,495
Oxfordshire	220	3,180	3,400
Surrey	2,185	1,215	3,405
West Sussex	785	5,130	5,915
Bracknell Forest	160	530	690
Brighton and Hove	840	1,210	2,050
Isle of Wight	365	1,180	1,545
Medway Towns	305	300	605
Milton Keynes	320	470	790
Portsmouth	650	740	1,390
Reading	115	1,380	1,500
Slough	1,030	0	1,030
Southampton	100	3,635	3,735
West Berkshire	285	785	1,070
Windsor and Maidenhead	350	655	1,005
Wokingham	150	1,005	1,160

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Departmental CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many CCTV cameras are installed in and around his Department's premises; and how much such cameras cost to *(a)* install and *(b)* operate in the latest period for which figures are available. [56837]

Mr Simon Burns: The numbers of CCTV cameras in and around the Department's premises are:

Premises	*Number of cameras*
Skipton House	24
Wellington House	16
Richmond House	30
Premier Buildings	8

The costs to install are not known as the equipment has been in place for many years and the costs are not held centrally.

The operating costs per annum are as follows:

Premises	*Operating costs (£)*
Skipton House	8,923
Wellington House	5,090
Richmond House	5,428
Premier Buildings	553

The costs for the first three buildings also include costs for running the security building pass system, as the costs cannot be shown separately.

This answer relates only to the buildings for which the Department has direct responsibility.

Continuing Care

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on ensuring full implementation of the National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions; and if he will make a statement. [57101]

Paul Burstow: I refer the hon. Member to the replies I gave her on 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 598W and on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 76W.

Counselling

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bodies in the *(a)* public and *(b)* voluntary sector provide bereavement counselling. [56923]

Paul Burstow: The information is not collected centrally.

Dental Services

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental laboratories in the UK have *(a)* closed and *(b)* merged since 2006. [56894]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to amend the calculation of units of dental activity in his proposals for dental commissioning; and if he will make a statement. [56906]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's coalition programme includes plans to develop a new national dental contract in which remuneration would be based on registration, capitation and quality in place of units of dental activity.

Dental Services: Standards

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in *(a)* North East Derbyshire constituency, *(b)* Derbyshire, *(c)* the East Midlands and (d) England are operating under (i) general dental services contracts and (ii) personal dental services agreements. [56889]

Mr Simon Burns: The numbers of dentists with national health service activity, by contract type, during the year ending 31 March 2010 are available in Table G2 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2009/10" report.

Information is provided for England by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT), but is not available by constituency. This information is based on the dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 18 August 2010, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0910

Following a consultation exercise in 2008, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes any previously published work force figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counts the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This revised methodology applies to data published from 2008 onwards and includes 2007 revised data. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements.

These published figures relate to a headcount and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many complaints the Care Quality Commission has *(a)* received and *(b)* upheld in respect of (i) dentists, (ii) dental nurses, (iii) dental technicians, (iv) dental therapists, (v) dental hygienists, (vi) orthodontic therapists, (vii) clinical dental technicians and (viii) dental practices in each year since its inception; [56890]

(2) how many patient complaints the Care Quality Commission has received since its inception; and how many of such complaints have been upheld. [56898]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) does not have responsibility to investigate complaints from patients and service users to achieve redress for those who complain. However, CQC does consider any concerns raised by members of the public as part of its regulation of providers of health and adult social care.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) in how many fitness to practice cases brought before the General Dental Council in the last 12 months, how many patients expected to be treated privately; and in such cases, how many prescribers had asked the device supplier to provide a device to the supplier's NHS standard of service as recorded on the returned statement of manufacture; [56891]

(2) how many fitness to practice cases brought before the General Dental Council involved *(a)* a dental device or devices made by an untrained person and *(b)* a dental device made by an untrained person and not discussed and included in a written treatment plan in the last 12 months; [56892]

(3) how many fitness to practise cases were brought before the General Dental Council in the last 12 months; and in how many such cases patients had not received a written treatment plans from their dentist. [56909]

Mr Simon Burns: The General Dental Council is an independent statutory body with responsibility for investigating complaints made to it about the fitness to practise of dentists and, where necessary, for taking action in relation to their registration.

Information about fitness to practise cases brought before the General Dental Council is not held by the Department.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence his Department has evaluated on any failure of dental technicians to meet required standards for their work. [56893]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not undertaken any such evaluation. The Medicines and Health products Regulatory Agency is ready to examine, and follow up as appropriate, any reports submitted which suggest that a dental appliance may not have been manufactured to the standards set in the European Council medical devices directive.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the average cost to a dental practice of providing a patient with a statement of conformity for a dental appliance; [56895]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to dental laboratories of producing a statement of conformity for a dental appliance; [56896]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* dental practitioners and *(b)* the public purse of requiring dental technicians to produce a statement of conformity for dental appliances. [56897]

Mr Simon Burns: No estimate has been made of the cost of dental technicians producing the custom-made device statement of conformity with the requirements of the EU medical devices directive, and dentists making this available to patients who request it.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what powers the General Dental Council has to determine whether a case in which a statement of conformity of a dental appliance was not provided should be referred for potential prosecution. [56902]

Mr Simon Burns: Section 36N(2) of the Dentists Act 1984 provides that the criteria by which a dentist's fitness to practise shall be regarded as "impaired" include by reason of deficient professional performance. Whether or not the General Dental Council (GDC) would consider that failure to provide a statement of conformity of a dental appliance constitutes deficient professional performance would depend on the individual circumstances of the case.

Where there are concerns about the fitness to practise of a dentist, the registrar of the GDC has powers to investigate the allegation and refer the allegation to the Investigating Committee. The registrar may also, if he considers it appropriate, refer the allegation to the Interim Orders Committee. The Medicines and Health products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) would also have an interest. The MHRA is responsible for enforcement of the medical devices directive, which requires that dentists inform patients that they may receive a copy of the statement that the dental laboratory will have issued with an appliance confirming that it complies with directive.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of dental crowns for UK patients were manufactured *(a)* outside the UK and *(b)* in non-European economic area countries in the latest period for which figures are available; [56903]

(2) how many crowns for patients receiving dental treatment on the NHS were obtained from overseas suppliers in the latest period for which figures are available. [56904]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental device suppliers his Department found not to have been registered with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in the last 12 months. [56908]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA's) devices enforcement unit has found two instances of dental device manufacturers failing to register with them in accordance with that requirement under the medical devices directive and United Kingdom implementing regulations in the fast 12 months.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to monitor the adequacy of *(a)* dental restoration work and *(b)* dental appliances. [56910]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government plan to develop a new national dental contract based on registration, capitation and quality. There will be a range of pilots to test a quality and outcomes framework in dental practice, and to develop and refine the systems, which we can use to monitor quality and outcomes.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the regulatory mechanism is which ensures that dental restorations and appliances meet UK standards. [56911]

Mr Simon Burns: If dental appliances or restorative materials are supplied to dental practices within the countries of the European Union, they must be Communauté Européenne (CE) marked in accordance with the standards set in Council Directive 93/42/EEC concerning medical devices.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many dental devices were made for UK patients by untrained dental technicians in each of the last five years; and in how many such cases the status of the manufacturing technician was recorded in the patients' notes; [56913]

(2) how many dental devices were made for UK patients by dental technicians trained to a level recognised by the General Dental Council in each of the last five years; [56915]

(3) how many dental devices were made for dental patients in each of the last five years. [56916]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on dental devices made by trained and untrained dental technicians is not collected centrally.

Information on how many dental devices were made for dental patients is not available in the format requested, but Band three Courses of Treatments (CoTs) include complex treatments (such as crowns, dentures and bridges) in addition to Band one and Band two work. A single Band three CoT can include a provision of more than one appliance/device.

Information on the numbers of Band three CoTs is included within Table C3 of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England—2010-11 Third quarterly report'. Information is available for 2006-07 and, by quarter, for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and provisional data for the first three quarters of 2010-11.

This report, published on 19 May 2011 has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats1011q3

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many trained dental technicians are working in the UK. [56914]

Mr Simon Burns: We understand that currently there are 6,998 dental technicians in the United Kingdom registered with the General Dental Council.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions his Department has had with the NHS Counter Fraud Service on steps to improve compliance with schedule 3(a) of the NHS (Dental Charges) Regulations 2005; [56917]

(2) on how many occasions his Department recorded a breach of schedule 3(a) of the NHS (Dental Charges) Regulations 2005 in each of the last five years. [56918]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has had no discussions with NHS Protect, who have responsibility for anti-fraud work in the national health service, on compliance with schedule 3(a) in particular nor does the Department maintain a central record of all breaches of individual elements of the NHS (Dental Charges) Regulations 2005. Any such breaches would normally be investigated and resolved locally by the responsible primary care trust, who would only involve staff from NHS Protect if the circumstances suggested that fraudulent activity might be involved.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on encouraging UK dentists to use UK-based laboratory technicians. [56919]

Mr Simon Burns: Choice of supplier is within the discretion of general dental practitioners, most of whom are independent contractors. However, we wish there to be a clear line of accountability and we were encouraged by guidance the General Dental Council (GDC) issued in March 2001 as "Standards on commissioning and manufacturing dental appliances". The guidance indicates that if dentists decide to prescribe or sub-contract the manufacture of a dental appliance outside of the United Kingdom and do not use a dental technician registered with the GDC they will be held professionally accountable for the safety and quality of the appliance. The guidance is available at:

www.gdc-uk.org/newsandpublications/publications/Pages/default.aspx

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial assistance his Department and its predecessor have provided to dental technology training in each of the last five years. [56920]

Mr Simon Burns: Core funding for dental technology training is provide by the Higher Education Funding Council for England for graduate level courses at universities and by the Skills Funding Agency for courses at Further Education Colleges. The Department has supplemented this funding on two special projects. Over the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 the Department paid a bursary of £2,000 per trainee to those dental laboratories which were providing placements for trainees preparing for a qualification in dental technology that would make them eligible for registration with the General Dental Council. The total sums involved were as follows:

	£
2005-06	186,000
2006-07	292,000
2007-08	354,000

In addition, in 2007-08, the Department made a grant of £15,000 to the Dental Laboratories Association to contribute to the development of distance learning for trainee dental technicians.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental schools provide dental technology training; and how many places were offered in each training institution in each year since 2006. [56921]

Mr Simon Burns: Information held centrally shows that dental technology training is currently provided at Manchester University and Leeds University and also at the following colleges of further education: Castle College Nottingham, Liverpool Community College, Lambeth College London, Matthew Boulton College Birmingham and Sheffield City College. Information is not collected on the number of places available.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what restrictions are placed on the production in its entirety of a dental device by an untrained dental technician. [56922]

Mr Simon Burns: Guidance issued by the General Dental Council on the Scope of Practice of dentists and dental care professionals reserves the verification and quality control of dental devices leaving a laboratory to registered dental technicians. The guidance is available at:

http://www.gdc-uk.org/Newsandpublications/Publications/Publications/ScopeofpracticeApril2009[1].pdf

Dentistry: Pay

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the introduction of NHS salaries for dentists. [56899]

Mr Simon Burns: We have not received any representations since taking office. Most general dental practitioners are self-employed, independent contractors, which is an arrangement which patients find convenient, and which most dentists seem to prefer.

Departmental Assets

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the monetary value of land and buildings, including NHS land and buildings, his Department expects to dispose of by sale in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [57081]

Mr Simon Burns: As part of the spending review 2010 settlement, the Department agreed with HM Treasury forecasts of future fixed asset sales. These estimates include all fixed asset sales from the national health service, the Department and arm's length bodies. They also include all other fixed assets as well as land and buildings.

The estimates span the entire spending review period from 2011-12 to 2014-15 and are shown in the following table.

NHS and foundation trusts are directly responsible for the disposal of their assets and decisions to sell are made by them locally. The Department and arm's length bodies make decisions on the disposal of land and buildings in line with Government policy.

Forecast fixed asset sales agreed in spending review 2010

	Fixed asset sale forecasts (£ million)
2011-12	219
2012-13	187
2013-14	193
2014-15	183

Departmental Manpower

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers were employed by his Department in 2010-11; and at what cost to the public purse. [57193]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the latest data release on the Cabinet Office website. This lists the names and pay bands of the special advisers in post at various times, and their actual salaries where these are £58,200 or higher. This is published together with details of the special advisers' pay ranges for 2010-11, and the total pay bill cost of special advisers in each period. These publications can be found at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

As at the end of March 2011, the Department's media centre employed 33 full-time and one part-time press officers, equating to 33.73 full-time equivalent press officers. The cost to the public purse was £1,371,144.

Drugs: Prisoners

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners were prescribed *(a)* methadone and *(b)* other substitutes for illegal drugs in each year since 2007; and what the cost to his Department was of providing such treatment in each such year. [56788]

Paul Burstow: Data are available on the number of clinical drug interventions provided in prisons for drug dependency since 2007-08.

In 2007-08, a total of 58,809 prisoners received a clinical drug intervention. Of these, 46,291 (79%) received detoxification and 12,518 (21%) a maintenance prescription for opioid dependency of either methadone or buprenorphine.

In 2008-09, a total of 64,767 prisoners received a clinical drug intervention. Of these 45,135 (69%) received detoxification and 19,632 (31%) received a maintenance prescription for opioid dependency of either methadone or buprenorphine.

In 2009-10, a total of 60,067 prisoners received a clinical drug intervention. Of these 36,323 (61%) received detoxification and 23,744 (39%) received a maintenance prescription for opioid dependency of either methadone or buprenorphine[1].

Data on the costs of prescribing methadone and other substitutes are not collected centrally. Since 2006, the national health service has been responsible for the commissioning of clinical services in prisons, including the administration of medicines. Individual budgetary costs are therefore the concern of local NHS primary care trusts (PCTs).

The Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) in prisons provides evidence-based treatment tailored to the needs of the prisoner. The programme includes abstinence, but all treatments are aimed at getting the person off drugs.

From April 2009, all adult prisons received funding (£39.7 million from the Department, £6 million from the Ministry of Justice) for the implementation of the enhanced clinical drug treatment and psychosocial components of IDTS.

The IDTS aims to increase the volume and quality of treatment available to prisoners, with particular emphasis on early custody, and to improve integration between clinical and counselling, assessment, referral and throughcare services and to reinforce continuity of care from the community into prison, between prisons, and on release into the community.

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[1] National Offender Management Service prisons key performance indicators system

Health Professions: Regulation

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what method his Department plans to use to ensure that all healthcare science workforce disciplines are represented in its cost-benefit risk analysis on the regulation of the healthcare science workforce; [56775]

(2) when he expects to appoint the team to conduct the evidence-based cost-benefit risk analysis to inform the appropriate model of regulation for the healthcare science workforce; by what date he expects the report's recommendations to be published; and which stakeholders will be consulted. [56776]

Anne Milton: Following the publication of the Command Paper "Enabling Excellence", no cost-benefit risk analysis of the case for introducing compulsory statutory regulation of the health care scientist workforce is now planned by the Department at this time. For those groups of health care scientists that the Health Professions Council has previously recommended for statutory regulation, assured voluntary registration is the preferred option.

Health Services: Older People

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the effect of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill on meeting the health care needs of older people. [57059]

Paul Burstow: A full equality impact assessment was published alongside the Bill on 19 January 2011 and has already been placed in the Library; and on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

In carrying out the equality impact assessment of the Health and Social Care Bill, the Department considered all the relevant protected characteristics, including age, covered by the Equality Act 2010 in accordance with good practice guidance from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission.

Health: Social Isolation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential effect of loneliness and social isolation on recovery rates from (i) cardiovascular disease, (ii) cancer and (iii) mental health conditions. [56728]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated any research specifically on the potential effect of loneliness and social isolation on recovery rates from cardiovascular disease, cancer and mental health conditions.

Heart Disease

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the principal risk factors contributing to heart disease, listed accorded to the assessed level of risk; [56794]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the economy of heart disease in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available; [56798]

(3) what the rate of incidence of heart disease in each local authority area was in the latest period for which figures are available; [56804]

(4) what recent assessment he has made of the position of England in international comparative tables for the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* survival of heart disease. [56927]

Mr Simon Burns: There are important modifiable risk factors, for heart disease, which are smoking, physical inactivity, high blood pressure, raised cholesterol and obesity. There are also a number of fixed risk factors—age, sex, ethnicity and family history. These risk factors are also linked to a wider group of diseases such as stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued guidance to the national health service on the management of a number of conditions associated with cardiovascular disease, including some guidance on cardiovascular disease at a population level which looks at the risk factors. The document "Prevention of cardiovascular disease at population level" can be found on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/13024/49273/49273.pdf

The NHS Health Check programme is a universal and systematic programme for people in England between the ages of 40 to 74 that assesses individuals' risk of vascular disease and will support people to reduce or manage that risk through individually tailored advice and support.

We do not hold any information centrally about the cost to the economy of heart disease in the most recent 12 months.

The Department commissioned the South East Public Health Observatory to develop cardiovascular profiles at regional and primary care trust/local authority level. These profiles provide a wide range of information, including on the incidence of heart disease in each area. They are intended to inform commissioning and planning decisions and enable commissioners to target resources most effectively to tackle cardiovascular disease and improve the health of local communities. They can be found at:

www.sepho.org.uk/CVDprofiles.aspx

We do not hold information centrally on the position of England in international comparative tables for the treatment and survival of heart disease. The European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery has published information on trends of activity and outcomes in cardio-thoracic surgery internationally. This is available at:

http://kingsfund.koha-ptfs.eu/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=96807

Hospital Wards: Standards

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which 100 wards had the worst health outcomes in the latest period for which figures are available. [56847]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for ONS, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking which 100 wards had the worst health outcomes in the latest period for which figures are available. (56847)

Official statistics are available at ward level on a small number of health outcomes, such as all-cause mortality, life expectancy and self-reported health status. Health expectancies such as healthy life expectancy and disability-free life expectancy are widely accepted as summary measures of health outcomes, since they combine estimates of mortality with self-perceived general health or limiting long-standing illness. Because of the small populations involved, ward level figures are available only around census years and data for several years have to be aggregated.

Tables 1 to 3 provide healthy life expectancy at birth for the 100 wards with the lowest estimates for males (Table 1), females (Table 2) and all persons (Table 3) for 1999-2003 (the only period available). Healthy life expectancy is the average number of years a newborn baby would live in 'Good' or 'Fairly good' health if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality and morbidity rates for that time period throughout his or her life.

Tables 4 to 6 provide disability-free life expectancy at birth for the 100 wards with the lowest estimates for males (Table 4), females (Table 5) and all persons (Table 6) for 1999-2003 (the only period available). Disability-free life expectancy is the average number of years a newborn baby would live free from a limiting illness or disability if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality and morbidity rates for that time period throughout his or her life.

Copies of Tables 1 to 6 have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Macular Degeneration: Drugs

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of the prescription of ranibizumab (Lucentis) for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration in each of the last two years. [56953]

Paul Burstow: The following table shows the cost of ranibizumab dispensed in hospitals and the community for 2009 and 2010.

Ranibizumab dispensed in hospitals and in the community in England[1]

		Cost (£000)
	Hospital[2, 3, 4]	*Community*[5]
2009	94,694.8	0.8
2010	128,717.0	2.3

Notes:

[1] Ranibizumab is only licensed for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration.

[2] Figures based on a sample and costed using standard price lists, either the drug tariff or, if the drug is not listed, the drug manufacturer's price list. The figures therefore do not necessarily represent the actual amounts paid by the hospitals.

[3] Data includes all drugs dispensed in national health service hospitals regardless of patient, so will include drugs dispensed to private patients in private wards within NHS hospitals as long as they have been dispensed via the hospital pharmacy. The extent of this varies from hospital to hospital.

[4] National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance recommended ranibizumab on the condition that the manufacturer offers a patient access scheme. Under the scheme, the cost of ranibizumab beyond 14 injections in the treated eye is met by the manufacturer. We do not have data on the number of injections provided by the manufacturer under the scheme and therefore the data does not reflect the impact of the scheme.

[5] Net ingredient cost of prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England.

Source:

IMS Health: Hospital Pharmacy Audit and Prescription Cost Analysis system.

Malnutrition

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to monitor the effect of food prices on rates of malnutrition. [56632]

Anne Milton: The Office for National Statistics and the Department's Health and Social Care Information Centre routinely collect data on the increase in food prices through the Consumer Prices Index and Retail Prices Index, and the prevalence of malnutrition through Hospital Episode Statistics. There are no specific plans to monitor the effects of food prices on the rates of malnutrition at present, but the data allows us to monitor future trends.

Mental Health

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the influence of psychosocial factors on the health and well-being of NHS patients. [56854]

Mr Simon Burns: There is extensive evidence that psychosocial factors, material circumstance, social environment, behaviours and biological factors are all important influences on health and well-being.

The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funds a wide range of research relevant to the relationship between psychosocial factors and the health and well-being of patients.

Details of projects funded through programmes managed by the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility (CCF) can be found on the CCF website at:

www.ccf.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/FundedProgrammes.aspx

Details of projects funded through programmes managed by the NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Centre (NETSCC) can be found on the NETSCC website at:

www.netscc.ac.uk/

Details of studies hosted by the NIHR Clinical Research Network can be found on the UK Clinical Research Network portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

Details of research funded by the Policy Research Programme are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Researchanddevelopment/Policyresearchprogramme/index.htm

NHS: Middlesbrough

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on NHS services in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in real terms in each year from May 2005 to April 2010; and how much he expects to be spent in each year from May 2010 to April 2015. [56723]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the format requested. Information on the net operating costs of Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Redcar and Cleveland PCT between 2005-06 and 2009-10 has been set out in the following table. Data for 2010-11 are not yet available. The data provided are historical statutory accounting data.

					£000
Organisation	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Langbaurgh PCT	131,346	—	—	—	—
Middlesbrough PCT	235,822	250,671	253,565	254,872	281,430
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	—	171,222	207,875	226,157	246,993

Notes:

1. Information in "real terms" is not collected centrally.
2. The Department collects statutory accounting data annually for each financial year (1 April to 31 March) and the figures provided reflect this. It is not possible to break the figures down by month.
3. Redcar and Cleveland PCT came into existence in the financial year 2006-07 after a merger of Langbaurgh PCT and part of Middlesbrough PCT.

Source:

Audited summarisation schedules.

Total revenue allocations for 2010-11 and 2011-12 are shown in the following table.

£ million

Organisation	*Total revenue allocation 2010-11*[1]	*Total revenue allocation 2011-12*[2, 3, 4]
Middlesbrough PCT	283.5	291.7
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	254.9	261.8

[1] 2010-11 allocations shown in the table are 2010-11 published allocations adjusted for the locally agreed transfer from PCTs to local authorities of funding and commissioning responsibility for the social care of people with learning disabilities from 2011-12.

[2] In December 2010, PCTs were informed of their total 2011-12 revenue allocations which include:
2011-12 recurrent revenue allocations; and
non-recurrent allocations for primary dental services, pharmaceutical services and general ophthalmic services.
Allocations for support for joint working between health and social care were announced separately in 2010-11.

[3] Total revenue allocations refer to the allocations listed above. This is the main funding source for PCTs.

[4] Comparisons between allocation years cannot as a rule be made as allocations were not made on a like for like basis. The 2010-11 figures have been especially adjusted to make them more comparable with those for 2011-12.

Source:
PCT Allocations, Department of Health

PCT recurrent revenue allocations for 2012-13 will be announced as soon as is practical this year.

Subject to the passing of the Health and Social Care Bill and the outcome of the current listening exercise, it is intended that from 2013-14 the National Health Service Commissioning Board will take over responsibility from the Department for commissioning guidelines and the allocation of resources. It would be for the NHS Commissioning Board to decide how best to allocate resources in a way that supports the principle of securing equivalent access to NHS services relative to the prospective burden of disease and disability.

Nutrition

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* levels of and *(b)* trends in the daily calorific intake of (i) men and (ii) women in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of the average intake in that period comprised of saturated fats. [56858]

Anne Milton: Average daily calorie (energy) and saturated fat intakes for adults are available from the National Diet and Nutrition Survey. Information is available on intakes for men and women for 2000-01 and 2008-09.

Total energy intake for men has fallen slightly, but for women has remained broadly similar. In 2000-01 intake for men was 2,308 kcal/day and for women was 1,635 kcal/day. In 2008-09 intake for men was 2,255 kcal/day and for women was 1,645 kcal/day.

Saturated fat intake provided 13% of food energy for men and 12.6% of food energy for women in 2008-09. The contribution of saturated fat to energy intakes has fallen slightly in both men and women since the last survey of this age group in 2000-01, but for both still exceeds the recommended level of no more than 11% of food energy.

Obesity

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned on the *(a)* physical and *(b)* psychological causes of obesity. [56795]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and Policy Research Programme (PRP) fund a wide range of research relating to the causes, prevention and treatment of obesity.

The Southampton NIHR Nutrition, Diet and Lifestyle Biomedical Research Unit conducts research on how nutrition, diet and lifestyle affect the later risk of diseases such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes.

The NIHR Health Technology Assessment and Public Health Research programmes are funding evaluations of interventions to prevent obesity, including a £2.7 million trial of an obesity prevention intervention in primary school age children.

Details of projects funded through programmes managed by the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility (CCF) can be found on the CCF website at:

www.ccf.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/FundedProgrammes.aspx

Details of projects funded through programmes managed by the NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Centre (NETSCC) can be found on the NETSCC website at:

www.netscc.ac.uk/

Details of studies hosted by the NIHR Clinical Research Network can be found on the UK Clinical Research Network portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

Details of research funded by the PRP are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Researchanddevelopment/Policyresearchprogramme/index.htm

Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data his Department has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months; and what such research and data collection exercises undertaken by the Department have not been amended in that period. [56759]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not initiated, terminated or amended any longitudinal research in the last 12 months. Details of longitudinal and other research funded by the Department's Policy Research programme are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Researchanddevelopment/Policyresearchprogramme/index.htm

The Department also funds programmes of research in the national health service (NHS) through the National Institute for Health Research, with an annual budget of around £1 billion.

Ongoing NHS data collections initiated through ROCR (Review of Central Returns) process during period May 2010—April 2011:

A and E (Accident and Emergency) Clinical Quality Indicators
Cancer Patients' Experience Survey
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Dataset
Community Information Dataset
Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT)
Mixed Sex Accommodation Monthly Return
National Children's and Young Person's Dataset
National Health Service (NHS) Health Check Dataset
Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) Inspection Programme

One-off NHS data collections initiated through ROCR process during period May 2010-April 2011:

Commissioned National and Local Enhanced Services

Memory Services for National Dementia Audit

Programme Budgeting—tariff based collection

Ongoing NHS data collections amended through ROCR process during period May 2010-April 2011:

Chlamydia Core Dataset

Community Mental Health Activity

Estates Return Information Collection (ERIC)

General Ophthalmic Services—Sight Tests

Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT)—Key Performance Indicators

KA34 Performance and Clinical Quality Indicator

Mental Health Minimum Dataset v4

National Joint Registry

Programme Budgeting

Summary of Genitourinary Medicine clinics

Ongoing NHS data collections terminated through ROCR process in period May 2010-April 2011:

Database of Countermeasures

Database of nominated recipients at all General Practitioners (GPs)—NHS (National Health Service) Choices

Direct Access Audiology weekly PTL (Patient Treatment List)

Expert Patient Programme (EPP) Self Management Courses

Financial Information Systems (FIS), Family Health Services (FHS) General Ophthalmic Service

General Pharmaceutical Council Awareness and perceptions Tracking (Opinion Survey)

GP Premises Data Collection

HRG4 (Healthcare Resource Groups) Grouper User Optional Survey

Junior Doctor's Hours

Monitoring extended GP practice opening hours

National Children's Health Service Mapping

NHS Campus Closure

NHS Constitution Research: Wave 2

NHS Staff Engagement and attitudes towards the NHS

Notification of partnership intentions between Health Services and Local Authorities using Section 75

PCT (Primary Care Trust) Controlled Drug Officers contact details

Practice Engagement in practice based commissioning

Swine Flu vaccine uptake data from GP registered patients

Three year funding for third sector organisations

TOP Slice (Treatment Outcomes Profile)

Update of five clinical Directed Enhanced Services (DES)

18 weeks referral to Treatment PTL

NHS data collections recorded and approved through ROCR process which existed in the period but which do not fall into any of the above three categories:

Abortion Statistics

18 Weeks Performance Sharing Report

18 Weeks Referral to Treatment (RTT) Times Monthly Data Collection

2012 Olympic Delivery Assurance

Investment in Mental Health Services for Adults

Adult Screening Programme: Breast Cancer (PCT return) (KC63)

Adult Screening Programme: Breast Screening (Screening Unit return) (KC62)

Adult Screening Programmes: Cervical Screening (KC53)

Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA)—Collection of non-Electronic Staff Record (ESR) items

Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA)—Employer Based Awards Reports

Annual Census of Non-Principal General Medical Practitioners

Annual Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) non-medical workforce census

Annual medical and dental workforce census

Annual NHS Vacancy Collection

Annual Statement of Fire Safety

Attribution Data Set (ADS)

Bed availability and occupancy (KH03)

Central Alerting System (CAS)

Charges for excess balances held in commercial bank accounts (FIS9) exercise

Childhood Immunisation Programme (KC50)

Collection of Influenza vaccine update data—immunisation of poultry workers

Collection of Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV) uptake in the 65 and over population data

Colposcopy clinics, referrals, treatments and outcomes (KC65)

Critical Care Minimum Dataset

Database to monitor use of Immunoglobulin

Diagnostic Departments: Radiology, nuclear medicine and medical physics.

Diagnostics Waiting Times and Activity Data Collection

Direct Access Audiology Monthly

Emergency Continuity Business Preparedness

Equity ownership of special purpose vehicles in Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schemes

Financial Monitoring and Accounts

Fire Incidents and Unwanted Fire Signal Data

General Medical Practitioners annual Census collection.

General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Statistics for England and Wales—Annual Return of Practitioners and Premises

General Practice (including dental) written complaints (K041b)

General Practitioners Practice Vacancy Survey

Genito-Urinary Medicine 48 Hour Access Target Monthly Monitoring (GUMAMM)

Health Care Worker Seasonal Flu

Health Checks for people with learning disabilities

Health of the Population Return (HotPR)

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) Complaints (KO41A)

Human papilloma virus (HPV) immunisation programme - vaccine monitoring minimum dataset—Including Catch up Programme Return

Informal Patients and Patients detained under the Mental Health Act: The Number of Uses of the Act

Information sharing between key hospitals and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) as part of the Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP)

Integrated Drug Treatment System for prisons Clinical Activity

Open and Staffed Adult Critical Care Beds (KH03a)

Mandatory surveillance of healthcare associated infection (HCAI) for orthopaedic surgical site infection (SSIs)

Mandatory surveillance of healthcare associated infections (HCAI)—Clostridium difficile infection (CDI), methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteremia, glycopeptide resistant enterococci (GRE) bacteremia, total blood cultures.

Mental Capacity Act 2005 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (MCA DOLS) monitoring data collection

Monitoring Revisions to new GP Contract—Financial Information Monitoring System (RMS) Family Health Services (FHS)4 and PCT Financial Return (PFR1A-D) data collection from PCTs 2006-7

Monitoring use of additional investment provided to support implementation of the End of Life Care Strategy in 2009-10

Monthly Activity Flow

National Cancer Dataset Waiting times subset

National Cancer Registration Dataset

National Capabilities Survey

National Child Measurement Programme

National Drug Treatment Monitoring System

National Maternity Services Data Set (NMDS)

National Renal Dataset

National Survey of Patient Experience

Neonatal Critical Care Minimum Dataset (NCCMDS)

NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS Funded Nursing Care

NHS Pharmaceutical Services (PHS1)

NHS Stop Smoking Services Quarterly Monitoring Return

NHS Trust—Financial Returns (6 TFR Forms)—to include TFR6 Ambulance Services Expenditure (£000)—England

Non-medical Device Defects and Failures Reporting System

Paediatric Critical Care Minimum Dataset (PCCMDS)

Pathology laboratories—cervical cytology and outcome of gynaecological referrals (KC61)

Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs)

Patient Safety and Healthcare Incidents

Pharmex: electronic collection of hospital pharmacy purchasing data

Practice engagement in practice based commissioning (PBC): PBC leads survey

Primary Care Trust—Financial Returns (PFR 5 Forms)

Prison Health, Performance and Quality Indicators

Quarterly Monitoring of Accident and Emergency (QMAE)

Quarterly Activity return

Quarterly Monitoring of Cancelled operations

Radiotherapy Contract Data Set (RT CDS)

Recording and reporting data about necessary and planned treatment of overseas visitors from the European Economic Area (EEA)

Redundancy Data Collection

Reference Costs Collection

Seasonal flu vaccine uptake

Seasonal flu vaccine uptake in Health Care Workers

Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Dataset

Sitreps weekly and daily

Specialist Palliative Care Workforce Data Collection

Statement on Internal Controls data collection

Strategic Health Authority—Analysis of Expenditure by Type (5 Human Resources (HFR) Forms)

Surplus Land for Housing

Secondary Uses Service (SUS) Payments By Results (PBR) Local Tariff Collection

Vaccination and immunisation data return collected through the Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER)

Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Risk Assessment

Vital Signs

Vital Signs Monitoring Returns

Vital Signs Monitoring Returns—continuation of lines

Notes:

1. All information is based on collections of data commissioned by the Department and approved through the ROCR process.

2. Community Information Dataset was approved in the time period, but licence doesn't start until January 2012.

3. The only one-off collections that are included are those granted approval within the specific period.

4. All one off collections are granted one year licences regardless of the point in the year that they are approved.

5. Some collections are referred to by their reference i.e. KH03, KA34.

6. The IAPT collection will continue in 2012, whilst the IAPT-KPI collection is expected to be discontinued at that point.

Source:

ROCR, The Health and Social Care Information Centre

Southern Cross Healthcare

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on Southern Cross care homes since 21 March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [56749]

Paul Burstow: I met the hon. Gentleman on 21 March to discuss his concerns.

Southern Cross has plans in place to restructure its business and ensure that services and quality are maintained and has informed Government officials about these plans.

The issue is the subject of regular discussion between officials in the relevant Departments, including the Department for Communities and Local Government. They will then brief and update their respective Ministers as they see fit.

The Government will continue to keep in close touch with the situation and will work with local authorities, the Care Quality Commission and others to ensure there is an effective response, which delivers protection to everyone affected.

Spinal Injuries: Continuing Care

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with a spinal cord injury are receiving continuing care in their own home. [56774]

Paul Burstow: This information is not collected centrally. Eligibility for national health service continuing health care does not depend on a specific health condition. It is the extent of the individual's assessed primary health care needs, and the care required to meet those needs, rather than diagnosis, that determine eligibility. People can move in and out of eligibility for NHS continuing health care as their needs change.

The outcome of the assessment for NHS continuing health care should be an agreement about the individual's needs, priorities and preferences for meeting them. Assessors should also take into account the views and contribution of carers when assessing the person in need.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on the operation of section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 in respect of the duty of local authorities to provide allotments where there is a demand for them; and if he will make a statement. [56238]

Greg Clark: The invitation to respond to the Government's review of statutory duties placed on local authorities has now closed. Responses included representations on allotments.

The review is intended to make clear, for the first time, the statutory duties placed on each local authority. We do not intend and have never intended to remove local authorities' statutory duties to provide allotments or to remove the requirement for local authorities to seek the Secretary of State's agreement to dispose of allotments or use statutory allotments for other purposes.

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to tackle anti-Semitism since April 2011; what assessment he has made of the performance of the Cross-Government Working Group to Tackle anti-Semitism; what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with Members of the House of Lords on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [56611]

Andrew Stunell: The Department of Communities and Local Government regularly receives representations from hon. Members of both Houses on issues of anti-Semitism. Since April 2011 a number of meetings and discussions have been held with individuals and organisations to take forward the Government's work to tackle anti-Semitism. The work of the Cross-Government Working Group is regularly assessed to ensure that key actions are followed up and delivered. The Government's latest response to tackling anti-Semitism can be found in the 'Three Years On Progress Report' which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/antisemitismresponse

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether officials in his Department with policy responsibility for dealing with anti-Semitism *(a)* have regular access to and *(b)* read Jewish weekly newspapers in the course of their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [56612]

Andrew Stunell: Officials in the Department with responsibility for dealing with anti-Semitism have regular access to Jewish weekly newspapers and read them in the course of their official duties.

Care Homes: Planning Permission

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the merits of requiring *(a)* planning permission and *(b)* local consultation for the conversion of a residential dwelling into a children's residential home. [56855]

Robert Neill: We announced in "Plan for Growth", published alongside the Budget, our intention to review how change of use is managed in the planning system. Further details on the review will be published shortly on the Department's website. There will be an opportunity for anyone with an interest in this matter to make representations.

Council Tax Benefits

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department and the Department for Work and Pensions have developed an implementation plan for the localisation of council tax benefit. [57075]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 23 May 2011]*: As my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government said in his written ministerial statement on 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 92WS, my Department will, in due course, be undertaking a full consultation on plans for councils to develop local schemes and meet the Government's commitment to retain council tax support for the most vulnerable in society. We will also embark on a round of formal and structured engagement with local authorities and other interested parties, once the consultation is published. Findings from this engagement and responses to the consultation document will be considered in the development of the necessary legislative framework to introduce the new system to replace council tax benefit.

This reform will create stronger incentives for councils to get people back into work and so support the positive work incentives that will be introduced through the Government's plans on universal credit. Combined with other incentives—such as the New Homes Bonus and our proposals for the local retention of business rates—these changes will give councils a greater stake in the economic future of their local area, so supporting the Government's wider agenda to enable stronger, balanced economic growth across the country.

Departmental Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57125]

Robert Neill: Charitable giving is a personal matter for individuals, although it is encouraged by Government. All Government Ministers have pledged to undertake a "one day challenge" with a charity or community group of their choice. This is a clear and public commitment by Ministers to give their time to help others. The pledge aims to inspire others to consider how they might be able to support their communities to benefit themselves, as well as their chosen organisations.

As an example of how Ministers are contributing to the wider giving agenda, the Government are strongly supporting initiatives that help to raise aspirations in schools. These include the "Speakers for Schools" initiative, which aims to get inspirational high profile people from a range of backgrounds to speak for free in state schools. The scheme is non-political and has significant cross-party support.

Departmental Data Protection

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts his Department holds which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; to which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each such contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas under each such contract. [55734]

Robert Neill: Departmental records show no contracts which allow contractors to store the personal data of UK citizens overseas.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) on what date special advisers in his Department last used the Government car pool to travel in an official capacity; and on how many occasions a special adviser in his Department has travelled to their home address using the Government car pool since May 2010; [56082]

(2) how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56099]

Robert Neill: No civil servants or special advisers in the Department are entitled to the use of a car with a dedicated driver nor are any entitled to use a car from the ministerial car pool. In line with the practice of previous Administrations, special advisers may accompany Ministers but records are not held. For the avoidance of doubt, no journeys have been made to home addresses.

For the period from May 2010 to March 2011, amounts spent on special advisers' travel are as follows: taxi—£184.50; train—£345.05 (standard class). There was no expenditure on commercial aircraft, private aircraft, buses or Government cars during this period.

To provide a comparison, the Department's records show that the following amounts were spent on special advisers' travel during the period July 2009 to March 2010: taxi—£532.99; train—£5,498.13; commercial aircraft—£1,905.20. There was no expenditure on private aircraft, buses or Government cars during this period.

All travel is governed by the requirements of the civil service management code.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any savings arising from the reduction in the number of his Department's arm's length bodies will be re-allocated; and if he will make a statement. [56634]

Robert Neill: We have published details of expected savings made in budgets for the Department's arm's length bodies at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1865652

The Department's spending review settlement reflects these savings.

Domestic Visits

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the date was of each visit by a Minister in his Department on official duties to each local authority area since 1 February 2011. [54132]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* Since 1 February 2011 the following visits by Ministers in DCLG have taken place:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Brentwood Borough Council area, on 3 February 2011;
The Epping Forest District Council area, on 4 February 2011;
The City of Westminster area, on 9 February 2011;
The Warwickshire County Council area, on 11 February 2011[1];
The City of London area, on 1 March 2011;
The Cardiff City Council area, on 4-5 March 2011[1];
The Coventry City Council area, on 7 March 2011;
The Chelmsford Borough Council area, on 11 March 2011;
The City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council area, on 17 March 2011;
The Brentwood Borough Council area, on 18 March 2011;
The City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council area, on 25 March 2011[1];
The City of Westminster area, on 31 March 2011;
The Bedford Borough Council area, on 6 April 2011[1];
The Nottingham City Council area, on 28 April 2011[1];
The Reading Borough Council area, on 3 May 2011[1];
The Manchester City Council area, on 12 May 2011.

The Minister for Housing and Local Government:

The London Borough of Islington area, on 1 February 2011;
The London Borough of Lambeth area, on 2 February 2011;
The Warwickshire County Council area, on 11 February 2011[1];
The Buckinghamshire County Council area on 4 March 2011[1];
The Sunderland City Council area, on 10 March 2011;
The Newcastle City Council area, 10 March 2011;
The City of Westminster area, on 22 March 2011;
The London Borough of Newham area, on 3 May 2011;
The Bedford Borough Council area, on 3 May 2011[1];
The Liverpool City Council area, on 9 May 2011;
The Sefton Council area, on 9 May 2011.

The Minister for Decentralisation:

The City of Westminster area, on 2 February, 24 February, 2 March, 7 April and 10 May 2011;
The Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council area, on 4 February 2011;
The London Borough of Southwark area, on 10 February 2011 and 10 May 2011;
The Warwickshire County Council area, on 11 February 2011[1];
The Ashford Borough Council area, on 18 February 2011[1];
The Tandbridge District Council area, on 25 February 2011[1];
The Cardiff City Council area, on 4-5 March 2011[1];
The Coventry City Council area, on 7 March 2011;

The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham area, on 15 March 2011[1];

The Ipswich Borough Council area, on 24 March 2011;

The Waveney District Council area, on 24 March 2011[1];

The Durham County Council area, on 25 March 2011;

The City of London area, on 30 March 2011;

The Mid Sussex District Council area, on 8 April 2011;

The London Borough of Barnet area, on 13 April 2011;

The London Borough of Camden area, on 10 May 2011.

Bob Neill MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State:

The London Borough of Wandsworth area, on 7 February 2011[1];

The Warwickshire County Council area, on 11 February 2011[1];

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets area, on 16 February 2011;

The City of London area, on 18 February 2011;

The Cardiff City Council area, on 4-5 March 2011[1];

The Gateshead Council area, on 9 March 2011;

The London Borough of Bexley area, on 15 March 2011;

The London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames area, on 16 March 2011;

The London Borough of Newham area, on 17 March 2011;

The Swale Borough Council area, on 24 March 2011;

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead area, on 31 March 2011;

The London Borough of Newham area, on 5 April 2011.

Andrew Stunell OBE MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State:

The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham area, on 16 February 2011;

The Bath and Northeast Somerset Council area and Bristol City Council area, on 20 February 2011[1];

The Mendip District Council area, Taunton Deane Council area, South Somerset District Council area and Purbeck District Council area, on 21 February 2011[1];

The Trafford Council area on 24 February 2011;

The Sheffield City Council area and Derby City Council area, on 25 February 2011[1];

The Chesterfield Borough Council area, on 7 March 2011[1];

The Milton Keynes Council area on 15 March 2011;

The Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council area, on 17 March 2011;

The Manchester City Council area, on 18 March 2011 and 12 April 2011[1];

The London Borough of Sutton area, on 22 March 2011;

The Reading Borough Council area, on 28 March 2011[1];

The Watford Borough Council area, on 31 March 2011;

The Stoke-on-Trent City Council area and Warrington Borough Council area, on 6 April 2011[1];

The Newcastle City Council area and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council area, on 7 April 2011[1];

The Leicester City Council area and Watford Borough Council area, on 11 April 2011[1];

The Burnley Borough Council area, on 13 April 2011[1];

The Colchester Borough Council area, on 18 April 2011[1];

The City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council area, on 19 April 2011[1];

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham area, on 27 April 2011;

The Sandwell Council area, on 12 May 2011.

Baroness Hanham, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State:

The City of London area, on 3 February 2011;

The Bristol City Council area, on 10 February 2011;

The Northumberland County Council area, on 8 March 2011;

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets area, on 10 March 2011;

The City of Westminster area, on 11 March 2011;

The Corby Borough Council area, on 15 March 2011;

The Leicester City Council area, on 15 March 2011.

[1] Political visit, included in the interests of transparency.

European Regional Development Fund

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from the European Regional Development Fund remains to be allocated in each region. [57379]

Robert Neill: As at 30 April 2011, the following sums from the 2007-13 European Regional Development Fund programme remained to be allocated:

2007-13 programme area	*€ million*
East Midlands	136.23
East of England	59.42
London	50.99
North East	137.84
North West	250.99
South East	11.66
South West (Competitive Programme)	57.10
South West (Convergence Programme)	142.27
West Midlands	232.59
Yorkshire and Humberside	348.52
Total for England	1,432.61

Please note that all the figures are in euros because the European Commission allocates European Regional Development Funds in euros.

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from the European Regional Development Fund has been *(a)* contracted and *(b)* paid to projects in each region to date. [57380]

Robert Neill: As at 30 April 2011, the following sums from the 2007-13 European regional development fund programme had been contracted for, and paid to each region:

		€ million
2007-13 programme area	*Contracted*	*Paid*
East Midlands	132.27	69.07
East of England	51.57	11.86
London	130.90	72.57
North East	237.86	111.22
North West	504.76	267.54
South East	12.05	3.70
South West (Competitive Programme)	67.56	19.85
South West (Convergence Programme)	310.79	116.66
West Midlands	167.31	80.11

2007-13 programme area	*Contracted*	*€ million Paid*
Yorkshire and Humberside	235.07	115.52
Total for England	1,850.14	868.10

Note: All the figures are in euros because the European Commission allocates European regional development funds in euros.

Fire Services: Crimes of Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters in each region have been injured as a result of an assault while on duty in each of the last three years. [57004]

Robert Neill: Figures for the total number of firefighters injured as a result of assault while on duty are not held centrally.

Numbers of firefighters injured as a result of an attack en route to or at an incident are available for periods since April 2009. These are shown in the following table by Fire and Rescue Authority and statistical region for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Numbers of firefighters injured as a result of an attack[1] en route to or at an incident, 2009-10 and 2010-11

Statistical region	*Fire and Rescue Authority*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
North West	Cheshire	0	0
North West	Cumbria	0	0
North West	Greater Manchester[2]	0	5
North West	Lancashire	0	3
North West	Merseyside	1	0
North East	Cleveland	0	2
North East	Durham	2	1
North East	Northumberland	1	0
North East	Tyne and Wear	1	0
Yorkshire and Humberside	Humberside	1	1
Yorkshire and Humberside	North Yorkshire	0	0
Yorkshire and Humberside	South Yorkshire	0	0
Yorkshire and Humberside	West Yorkshire	4	1
East Midlands	Derbyshire	1	0
East Midlands	Leicestershire	0	1
East Midlands	Lincolnshire	0	0
East Midlands	Northamptonshire	0	1
East Midlands	Nottinghamshire	1	1
West Midlands	Hereford and Worcester	0	0
West Midlands	Shropshire	0	0
West Midlands	Staffordshire	0	0
West Midlands	Warwickshire	0	0
West Midlands	West Midlands	2	0
Eastern	Bedfordshire	0	1
Eastern	Cambridgeshire	0	1
Eastern	Essex	3	4
Eastern	Hertfordshire	0	1
Eastern	Norfolk	0	0
Eastern	Suffolk	0	0
South West	Avon	0	0
South West	Cornwall	0	0
South West	Devon and Somerset	0	0
South West	Dorset	0	0
South West	Gloucestershire	0	2
South West	Isles Of Scilly	0	0
South West	Wiltshire	3	0
South East	Berkshire	0	0
South East	Buckinghamshire	0	0
South East	East Sussex	0	0
South East	Hampshire	1	1
South East	Isle Of Wight	0	0
South East	Kent	3	0
South East	Oxfordshire	1	0
South East	Surrey	0	0
South East	West Sussex	0	0
London	Greater London	18	1
Total—England		43	27

[1] Includes (i) physical abuse, (ii) other acts of aggression, and (iii) objects thrown.

[2] Data for Greater Manchester for 2009-10 incomplete.

Source:

Incident Recording System, Department for Communities and Local Government

Housing Associations: Fraud

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the level of fraud perpetrated against housing associations. [57213]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not collect information about frauds perpetrated against housing associations. From accounting year 2010-11 onwards, housing associations that are registered with the Social Housing Regulator are required to make an annual report to the Regulator of any losses from fraudulent activity.

As I outlined in a departmental press notice on 16 December 2010, social tenancy fraud in England is estimated to cost £5 billion, in terms of the equivalent cost of the number of social homes that are unlawfully occupied.

We are supporting councils to tackle tenancy fraud through £19 million in funding and a dedicated national action team based at the Chartered Institute of Housing. We are also working closely with the National Fraud Authority, for example, to lower the cost of using the services of credit reference agencies to help identify potential fraud.

Housing: Construction

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effect on *(a)* the availability of urban green space and *(b)* the green belt of his proposals for new housing. [56346]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 May 2011]:* As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State clearly stated in answer to the hon. Member's question of 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 731, the Government are committed to maintaining green belt protection.

We will also be implementing the coalition agreement commitment to create a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities.

Housing: Energy

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to ensure that new homes are built to meet energy efficiency standards. [56666]

Andrew Stunell: As part of the programme of work to deliver changes to the building regulations in 2013 and the Government's commitment that all new homes built from 2016 should be zero carbon, my officials are working with industry to consider a range of measures for further improving performance and compliance with the energy efficiency standards for new homes. Areas being explored include improving guidance and dissemination to raise awareness and understanding of the requirements and how to achieve them, and improvements to the building control system to facilitate compliance, such as enabling wider use of competent person schemes.

I also refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement of 17 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 7-9WS

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to enable the retrofitting of older properties with energy saving and energy conservation technology. [56667]

Andrew Stunell: The Government will launch the Green Deal in late 2012, which will enable householders to improve the energy efficiency of their homes at no upfront cost. Measures will instead be paid for through the resulting savings on energy bills. This department is supporting the development of the Green Deal through improvements to energy performance certificates, to enable them to be part of the initial assessment of a home for the Green Deal, and to better engage householders on the benefits of installing energy efficiency measures.

My officials are also engaged in a number of areas of work to support take-up of the Green Deal, including improved rights for private tenants to benefit from energy efficiency measures; exploring proposals for using building regulations to promote the retrofitting of buildings when undertaking other major works; and working with social landlords to encourage large scale projects to retrofit homes with energy efficiency and micro-generation technologies.

Local Government Act 1988

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of section 43 of the Local Government Act 1988. [57222]

Robert Neill: The Government have no specific plans in relation to section 43 of the Local Government Act 1988. The Government support and value the role of mandatory and discretionary rate relief.

Local Government: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of each submission made by London borough councils to his Department on the provisional 2011-12 local government finance settlement. [35814]

Robert Neill: In previous years under past Administrations, written representations on the Local Government Finance Settlement have not usually been made public. In the spirit of transparency, Ministers have resolved that these should be published for the 2011-12 settlement, with the exception of any representations where the sender has explicitly requested their submission be treated as confidential.

In due course, my Department will publish these documents online, with an accompanying background note to explain what steps were taken to respond to consultation responses. I will inform the House when this is completed.

Local Government: Standards

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward secondary legislation to grant voting rights to co-opted members of local authority standards committees. [56631]

Robert Neill: The Standards Board regime fuelled petty complaints and malicious vendettas, wasting taxpayers' money and harming local democracy.

The Localism Bill places a duty on councils to promote and maintain high standards of conduct, under which it will be their responsibility to take and fund such measures, including establishing any appropriate disciplinary processes, that they see fit to fulfil this duty.

And as a guard against corruption, the Bill also provides that a member will commit a criminal offence if he or she, without reasonable excuse, fails to register or disclose an interest, or takes part in council business having personal interests which prohibit this.

In this context, it will remain open for councils to have voluntary standards committees, but we have no plans to bring forward secondary legislation as suggested. One of the purposes of our reforms is to move away from arbitrary and often quasi-political judgments by unelected officials who operate outside the integrity and independence of the formal judicial process.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how long his appointed Inspector in relation to appeal reference APP/E1210/A/10/2141696, spent at the appeal site during his visit on 1 March 2011. [57230]

Robert Neill: The Inspector's records indicate that he spent 35 minutes on site and walking in the vicinity. He spent a further estimated five minutes driving in the wider locality to acquaint himself with the overall context of the site.

Playing Fields

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the future of the playing fields planning circular New Town and Country Planning (Consultation) Direction 2009. [56630]

Robert Neill: There are no plans to change the DCLG Circular 02/2009: The Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009. The coalition agreement affirms that the Government will seek to protect school playing fields, and it also commits the Government to creating a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities.

Social Care

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much was allocated by each local authority for social care in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement; [57394]

(2) how much was allocated by each local authority as part of the supporting people programme in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement; [57395]

(3) how much was allocated by each local authority for respite care in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [57396]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House tables which show the sums allocated for social care, and for the supporting people programme, by each local authority in the years 2005-06 to 2009-10. Figures for the sums allocated to respite care are not held centrally.

Central Government funding for social care is not ring-fenced and authorities are free to allocate this funding according to local priorities. The spending review provided an additional £7.2 billion for social care over the next four years but it is for local authorities to decide where this funding is most needed.

Trading Standards: Video Recordings

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the enforcement of the provisions of the Video Recordings Act 1984 by trading standards officers of the proposed reorganisation of the Local Government Group. [55914]

Robert Neill: No such assessment has been made. The Local Government Group is owned by its member local authorities and independent of central Government; its proposals for reorganisation and the services it will provide are matters for it to agree with its members.

Local Government Regulation provides support to councils on trading standards issues, but it is local authorities which undertake enforcement activity.

Vacant Land

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to discourage development on greenfield sites. [56693]

Robert Neill: We are taking substantial steps to help local communities protect greenfield sites as they plan for sustainable growth. We are abolishing regional strategies and their top down direction including on developing urban extensions; councils have been given stronger powers to prevent unwanted garden grabbing; green belt, sites of special scientific interest and other environmental protections will be maintained; and we will create a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities.

Our proposed new planning policy statement on travellers, subject to consultation, seeks to increase protection of the open countryside and green belt.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 18 May 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Government Procurement Card

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 195W, on the Government Procurement Card, which Audit Commission transactions on the Government Procurement Card in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 were made by each director and board member of the Commission. [54539]

[Official Report, 10 May 2011, Vol. 527, c. 1175-77W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Robert Neill:

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Fleetwood (Eric Ollerenshaw) on 10 May 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 10 May 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The following table lists transactions made on the Government Procurement Card for 2008/09 and 2009/10 by the Audit Commission's Chief Executive and Chairman. No other directors or Commissioners hold cards.

No transactions were made between January and March 2010.

Transaction date	*Supplier*	*Amount (£)*
Chairman		
2008		
27 October	Newquay Airport	5.00
6 November	British AIRW1252449202641	-191.50
12 November	B A Int-Dom 1252451231894	349.80
12 November	Newquay Airport	5.00
19 November	B A Int-Dom 1252451458879	6.00
19 November	Transpennine Exprs Radisson Edwardian	2.90
12 December	Manchester	156.95
17 December	St Martins on the Isle	125.00
2009		
29 January	The Cinnamon Club	230.29
19 May	Air France 0572181224177	88.76
19 May	www.Flybe.COCW3042	44.48
24 June	Corinthia Towers Hotel	528.37
02 July	WP-Mal Maison Limi	84.00
Chief executive		
2008		
29 September	www.Ibahn.Com	15.00
9 October	Hospitality Services	15.00
10 November	Southern	22.80
19 November	Nat Express E Cst	53.00
4 December	Sofitel St. James	73.69
4 December	Fredericks	108.56
8 December	Hilton Hotel	206.05
9 December	Sofitel St. James	114.75
11 December	Fredericks	153.79
12 December	Marriott	35.60
12 December	Coq D'Argent	112.16
15 December	Jurys Birmingham	429.90
16 December	Indigo Restaurant	107.94
18 December	Lescargot	605.03
18 December	Sherpherd's	105.75
19 December	Portland Spa Hotel	166.87
19 December	The Butlers Wharf Chop	147.54
21 December	Crowne Plaza	133.99
22 December	Holiday Inns	259.25
2009		
29 January	Arbutus Restaurants Lt	94.84
29 January	Bank Restaurant B001	94.56
29 January	Bank Restaurant B001	82.35
29 January	Bonds Restaurant and Bar	85.33
29 January	OXO Tower Restaurant	101.53
29 January	Quirinale Ltd	122.63
29 January	Quirinale Ltd	108.00
29 January	Quirinale Ltd	101.25
29 January	Roussillon	497.89
24 April	Parliamentary Book Shop	45.00
5 May	Quirinale	240.19
15 May	Coq D'Argent	90.00
11 June	Le Cafe Anglais	108.06
19 June	The Don	109.46
29 June	Shepherd's	98.44
30 June	Swisscom Internet	60.00
22 July	Albannack	92.81
5 August	Islington Pay and Display	7.30
23 September	Marriott	15.00
24 September	Hakkasan	91.76
25 September	Shepherd's	73.13
1 October	Hilton Hotel	90.45
1 October	Hilton Hotel	3.95
5 October	Virgin (WC) Trains	193.50
6 October	The Olive Press (Manchester)	52.00
8 October	Jurys Manchester	620.00
21 October	Hotel Du Vin	74.69
22 October	Hilton	121.80

Transaction date	*Supplier*	*Amount (£)*
22 October	Holiday Inns	29.20
29 October	Sofitel St. James	96.75
2 November	Quirinale	87.69
29 December	Parliamentary Book Shop	59.35

The correct answer should have been:

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 17 May 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The following table lists transactions made on the Government Procurement Card for 2008/09 and 2009/10 by the Audit Commission's Chief Executive and Chairman. No other directors or Commissioners hold cards.

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20 June	Radisson Edwardian Man	156.95
24 November	The Cinnamon Club	230.29
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19 May	Air France 0572181224177	88.76
19 May	www.flybe.co CW3042	44.48
24 June	Corinthia Towers Hotel	528.37
2 July	WP-Mal Maison Limited	84.00
Chief executive		
2008		
11 April	Fredericks	108.56
24 April	Nat Express E Cst	53.00
16 May	Indigo Restaurant	107.94
4 June	Shepherd's	105.75
12 June	Lescargot	605.03
18 June	Hilton Hotel	206.05
18 June	Hospitality Services	15.00
25 June	Fredericks	153.79
3 July	Marriott	35.60
14 July	The Butlers Wharf Chop	147.54
3 September	Coq d'Argent	112.16
4 September	Oxo Tower Restaurant	101.53
10 September	Quirinale Ltd	122.63
15 September	www.ibahn.com	15.00
1 October	Jurys Birmingham	429.90
9 October	Holiday Inns	259.25
21 October	Crowne Plaza	133.99
27 October	Arbutus Restaurants Ltd	94.84
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29 December	Parliamentary Book Shop	59.35

Ministerial Correction

Monday 23 May 2011

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Waste Review

The following are the answers given by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the right hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), relating to questions from the hon. Member for North Tyneside (Mrs Glindon) during Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Question Time on 12 May 2011.

1. **Mrs Mary Glindon** (North Tyneside) (Lab): What recent representations she has received from local authorities on her Department's waste review. [55086]

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): My ministerial colleagues and I have met a wide range of local authority representatives to discuss our review of waste policy in England. Eighty local authorities, and a range of partnership groups, responded to our call for evidence and many have participated in subsequent discussions with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs officials, emphasising the diversity of local circumstances.

Mrs Glindon: Can the Secretary of State tell me what DEFRA is doing to help local authorities to crack down on persistent fly-tippers in rural and urban areas?

Mrs Spelman: Responsibility for dealing with fly-tipping is also a matter for the Department for Communities and Local Government, and I am sure that the hon. Lady is aware that, over time, the fines have been increased. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 makes provision for penalties for fly-tippers, and I want to make it perfectly clear from DEFRA's perspective that it is a practice that we abhor, and that we seek to catch and prosecute those who perpetrate it.

[Official Report, 12 May 2011, Vol. 527, c. 1333.]

An error has been identified in an oral answer given on 12 May 2011. It is the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended) that makes provision for penalties for fly-tippers, not the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

The correct answer should have been:

Mrs Spelman: Responsibility for dealing with fly-tipping is also a matter for the Department for Communities and Local Government, and I am sure that the hon. Lady is aware that, over time, the fines have been increased. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended) makes provision for penalties for fly-tippers, and I want to make it perfectly clear from DEFRA's perspective that it is a practice that we abhor, and that we seek to catch and prosecute those who perpetrate it.